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# The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

Ian Katz on the new creationists

## Was Darwin wrong?

G2 with European weather



Jeffrey's got a brand new book

## The first hype of spring

Joanna Coles, G2 page 7



OnLine

## Fire escape Ways to beat a blaze

G2 pages 10/11

Report on standards will call for government appointees to work for nothing and demand tighter controls to avoid conflicts of interest

# Nolan: End quango scandal

David Hencke Westminster Correspondent

**L**ORD NOLAN is to propose dramatic changes to the controversial quango system by calling for an end to payments for those sitting on the public bodies, the Guardian has learned.

He will say the whole basis of quangos, which have mushroomed under John Major's government, should be reviewed and that people should serve out of a sense of duty rather than financial gain.

Guardian inquiries have also revealed the extent of payments to quango members, which include a \$4,000-a-day fee to the chairman of the Port of London Authority and £1,500 a day to the chairman of the Dover Harbour Board.

Lord Nolan's report on standards in public life examining local quangos, which will come out next month, will oppose all payments for appointees on a wide range of education, training and housing bodies. Members should be attracted by the desire to perform public service rather than by money, it will say. Such a principle should become the mainstay of government policy.

It will also call for tighter controls over potential conflicts of interest among people appointed to serve on Training and Enterprise Councils, grant-maintained schools, further education colleges and housing associations.

By drawing such a firm line against extending payments to new quangos, Lord Nolan is certain to re-open the question of why large salaries are paid to board members on NHS trusts, Housing Action Trusts, the Funding Agency for Grant Maintained Schools, and the funding councils for further and higher education.

Among the most dramatic payments uncovered by the Guardian in ministerial annual reports quango members are £4,000 a day for 12 days' work a year for Sir Brian Shaw to chair the Port of London Authority. John Maitby, a businessman who chairs the Dover Harbour Board, receives £1,500 a day for 10 days work a year.

Other recipients include Lord De Ramsey, a Conservative landowner from Huntingdon, appointed by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, as chairman of the new Environment Agency on a £50,000-a-year salary for a two-day week. Conservative



Sir Brian Shaw, chairman of Port of London Authority, has spent much of his life in shipping

### Quango kings

SIR Brian Shaw, aged 63, is chairman of the Port of London Authority on a salary of £50,000 a year. He was appointed by the Transport Secretary on a three-year contract in 1993. The department's records show he is expected to attend 12 meetings a year—a time commitment of 12 days annually—the equivalent of more than £4,000 a day.

He gained an MA at Cambridge, was then called to the Bar and joined Pacific Steam Navigation company in Liverpool in 1957.

He has been a PLA board member since 1987 and is chairman of the AA.

JOHN Newcombe Maitby, aged 67, is chairman of the Dover Harbour Board on salary of £15,000 a year. He was re-appointed chairman last year by the Transport Secretary. The department's records show he is expected to attend 10 meetings a year—a time commitment of 10 days work every 12 months—the equivalent of £1,500 a day.

He had a long career in the oil and shipping industries. Previous employers include Shell and Burmah Oil. He has been a member of the Dover Harbour Board, a quango, since 1989. He is also chairman of the British Ports Federation, a private body.



John Maitby, keen sailor and chairman of Dover Harbour Board

former environment minister Lord Belwin gets £27,880 a year for a two-day week chairing the North Hull Housing Action Trust.

Last night John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, condemned the salaries: "Taxpayers are paying through the nose for people to sit on quangos. Labour will fundamentally reform this system."

Following Lord Nolan's

first report into standards in public life last year ministers are having to re-visit procedures for appointments next year to end the perceived bias. They will now come under pressure to review the salaries on offer for the next generation of appointments.

Lord Nolan's new inquiry involved submissions from a range of educational and housing organisations, many making it clear they want to call a halt to the increasingly large payments to people on quangos.

Among the strongest critics are the Training and Enterprise Councils and the Scottish Local Enterprise Councils who have told Lord Nolan they want to remain operating in a similar way to charitable trusts, which ensures no one on their boards is paid.

Even Sir Donald Mackay, the paid chairman of Scottish Enterprise, has told Lord Nolan: "I report to you what the chairs [of Local Enterprise Councils] quite unequivocally said to me—they do not wish to be in a situation where they, or their members are paid. They do this out of a sense of public duty and that is how they wish it to remain."

Similar points have been raised by the National Federation of Housing Associations; the Colleges Employers Forum and grant-maintained schools. At most, further education colleges and grant-maintained schools say self-employed business people or poor people should be reimbursed for loss of income.

Leader comment, page 8

## EU to vet monetary policy Tyson accused of sex attack

Brussels seeks to avoid conflict on UK single currency opt-out

John Palmer in Brussels

**B**RTAIN will be required to submit details of its monetary policies for European Union scrutiny, even if it decides against joining a single European currency.

The European Commission hopes in this way to avert a potentially explosive confrontation with the Government over pressure for sterling to rejoin the exchange rate mechanism—though the strategy is likely to enrage Eurosceptics concerned about ceding economic sovereignty to Brussels.

The commission yesterday dropped a broad hint that despite such pressures the pound may not have to rejoin

governments insist some extra disciplines on economies outside the monetary union will be necessary to avoid currency upheavals which could undermine the single European market. One possibility would be to pay EU grants in national currencies, to prevent devaluing countries making a profit at the expense of the EU budget.

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, has always insisted that he gives priority to low inflation, currency stability and economic convergence with the rest of the EU. He has hinted at a willingness to consider new inflation-proof monetary policies to reassure those who doubt the Government's commitment to avoiding competitive devaluations.

Since the currency crisis of September 1992 the Government has, however, ruled out sterling rejoining the ERM. Speaking at a press conference on page 2, column 5

World News

Sarajevo busied its most famous lovers, a young Serb and his Muslim girlfriend shot three years ago.

Comment

If ever there was a case that ought to be dealt with by the independent judicial review authority, the Bridgewater case is it, says Jill Morrell.

Sport

Big Boys Inc, the power hitters who prosper most at certain holes at Augusta, hold the key to the US Masters golf.

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Crossword and Weather 16  
Radio 16; TV 16

### Inside

Britain

Doctors and drug relief agencies yesterday rallied to defend a Scottish social worker who said Ecstasy was 'relatively safe'.

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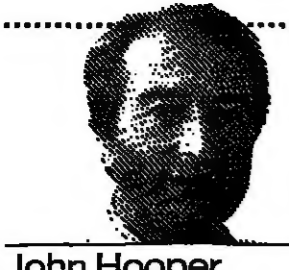
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When you receive your next tax return, open it immediately because we've enclosed some important information about Self Assessment.

**Inland Revenue**  
Self Assessment - a clearer tax system

**Rome sketch**

# Briefs in dock tout for votes



John Hooper

**Y**OU could tell Silvio Fiori was a lawyer. He has that way with words.

Mr Fiori is a candidate for Silvio Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance in next week's general election in Italy. He was also one of the distinguished participants at a book launch yesterday in the elaborately corniced and plastered conference room of a hotel within sight of the Pantheon in Rome.

He began, rather unusually, by complimenting the author on his "courage".

The author, Cesare Previti, smiled in a grateful, slightly self-deprecating way. Mr Previti is a fellow Freedom Alliance candidate and a key figure in this campaign.

Soon after the campaign began, Mr Previti was sent for trial on charges of having blackmailed the country's leading anti-corruption prosecutor into quitting. Antonio Di Pietro, the idol of "honest Italy", took off his gown for the last time 17 months ago, days before he was due to interrogate Mr Berlusconi about bribery claims.

Mr Previti is Mr Berlusconi's lawyer, as well as the chairman of his party. Shortly before the campaign began, it emerged that prosecutors were also looking into allegations that he paid one of Rome's most senior judges to decide cases in his client's favour.

And the book? Well, the book is called *A Programme For Justice*, and it consists of Mr Previti's proposals for reforming the legal system.

So you can see what his learned friend meant by "courage". Up to a point.

Few things could better illustrate the degree to which Italian public life has become divorced from the standards of the rest of Europe than this bizarre event. One had to kick oneself to be sure it was real — that the party with the best

chance of winning next Sunday's election believed it was enhancing its prospects by helping launch a book on how to overhaul the courts by a man who is due to be tried in one of them.

When another speaker said Mr Previti's proposals were "very, very detailed", no one ever smiled.

But then, such is the politicisation of the judiciary — several judges are standing in this election — that many Italians are sure the arraignment of Mr Previti is politically motivated. Foremost among them is Mr Previti himself.

The lawyer-turned-politician-turned-author is a slim, wiry man with a toothy smile, silvery hair and an unexpectedly soft handshake. Did he not think the launch of his book might not be a little — how should I put it? — inopportune?

"I find it a bit 'against the rules' that people should be indicted because they are politically committed in a certain direction," he replied. It was indeed odd that so many candidates were in trouble with the law. But, he maintained, there were more on the left (under investigation over kickbacks taken by communist co-operatives) than there were on the right.

In any case, this odd situation could hardly be laid at the door of politicians alone, he said. "It is because of those who use the legal process for purposes that go beyond those for which it was intended."

When, earlier this year, Spain's Socialist selected an indicted politician as a candidate, there was outrage. It may have cost them last month's election.

But there is no sign that the arraignment of Mr Previti has damaged Mr Berlusconi, who is himself on trial on the bribery charges about which Mr Di Pietro wants to have questioned him. The latest poll showed the Freedom Alliance further ahead than before.

If it wins, and if Mr Berlusconi secures an outright majority, Mr Previti could have the chance to put his ideas into effect. Mr Berlusconi wanted to make him justice minister in his last government. Indeed, his book is bound to be seen as a way of staking his claim to the post that previously eluded him.

**First night**

# Chronicle of a failing industry

John Mullin  
On The Line  
Dundee Repertory Theatre

**I**T WAS a remarkable show of faith in the security folk: John Carnegie, director, had invited everybody. Strikers and scabs, shop stewards and bosses, police and politicians. All except Peter Hall, the tartan-tied Sassenach who ran *Times*; and the whined hate figure during the eight-month dispute which led to the plant's closure in 1993.

Perhaps it was as well. The conflict, confined to the stage, might have spilled into the auditorium. Hall, who had sent two businessmen into liquidation before taking on *Times*, had offered to come, if provided with a red carpet and a start on his arm.

The finest moment in Alan Spence's skilful but far too solemnly overlong chronicle of *Times*'s 47 years in Dundee, beginning a three-week run, comes when the excellent Alexander West dramatically descends from above. West captures Hall's oily nature perfectly, if audience reaction is any indicator.

There had to be some misgivings about this play, given that it runs for three hours. Ricky Ross, ex of Deacon Blue, may have written the score, but the opening number, all haunting celtic pipes, hardly agured well. There were another couple of poor numbers before the dialogue settled into any rhythm, the first half dealing with *Times*'s association with Dundee up until the dispute, which led to the sacking of the 340.

Spence captures the great

post-war optimism as the factory opens in 1946. The workforce is good and, more, is malleable, and the company does well, bringing cheap watches to the masses. Affairs take a turn for the worse as watch-making is transferred to cheaper locations, and Dundee is host to a series of mad schemes, including the three-dimensional camera.

There is a neat play at the beginning of the second half, as the dispute between Carnegie splits the stage in a manner reminiscent of how telephone conversations were represented on old telly programmes. On one side union representative John Kydd is rallying his troops and, on the other, Hall is marshalling his scabs.

And, although there is little doubt where Spence's sympathies lie, he neatly encapsulates the ludicrous nature of the strike: the male committee shows to the women; and the intra rent-a-mob jockeying.

All this is based on painstaking research, involving long interviews with all interested parties, except for *Times* and its boss, Norwegian Fred Olsen. All the characters are real, and Spence and Carnegie consulted legal advisers before going ahead.

As the dispute concludes, the parties are, in the depressing-sounding words of the play, proclaiming victory. Mary Doan, on the line for 30 years, sounds the final note of sanity. She had been one of the most optimistic but now realises she wasted her time. "It is only now I am beginning to breathe," she ends.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Mr Kasagic demanded that the Bosnian Serbs be given separate and equal representation to the Muslim-Croat Federation, rather than forming part of a joint all-Bosnia delegation.

Mr Bilid accused Mr Kasagic of reneging on a previous agreement, and of further isolating his own people.

"I can only express my sympathy with the plight of your citizens, who will now risk becoming the victims of the political games being played in Pale," Mr Bilid wrote in his reply.

Western diplomats in Sarajevo said Mr Kasagic appeared to have bowed to pressure from the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic.

As an indicted war criminal, Mr Karadzic is unable to attend international conferences, and is banned from standing for office under the Dayton accord. He and other Serb hardliners have been campaigning to undermine the peace settlement.

In his reply to Mr Kasagic, Mr Bilid left the door open for a last-minute change of heart by the Serbs.

"The invitation to participate... naturally still stands. We have no intention whatsoever to isolate you — but we cannot prevent you from isolating yourself from the benefits of co-operation and reconstruction," the letter said.

Earlier yesterday, the European Union cleared the way for diplomatic recognition of former Yugoslavia and invited the Bosnian Serbs to the international conference on economic aid and reconstruction.

The Italian presidency of the EU said an agreement on mutual recognition between Serbia and Montenegro — the rump Yugoslavia — and Macedonia had removed the last obstacle to the EU's recognition of Belgrade.

There was concern, however, that the international community was downplaying promises to link economic aid to democracy, human rights and press freedom.

Headed by those who

# Labour leader offers low-tax pledges to prevent sterling speculation that plagued his predecessors

# Blair takes on Wall Street

Patrick Wintour  
in New York

**T**ONY BLAIR last night moved to prevent the currency speculation that bedevilled Labour governments in the 1990s and 1970s when he assured Wall Street fund managers that a Labour chancellor would set corporation and income tax levels low enough to attract foreign investors.

Mr Blair was speaking to the US banking elite at the start of a three-day mission to explain New Labour to the economic superpower.

He will underline his low tax message today when he

tells 600 business people that he rejects letting nostrums that high tax is a "political virility symbol".

He will try to reassure the British middle class by promising that teachers, police officers and other public sector workers should not pay more in tax.

Mr Blair believes that those earning £30,000 to £40,000 a year should not be in a higher tax band, but his aides insisted he has not decided whether to have a new higher tax band.

Speaking to the Wall Street bankers, he promised that Britain under Labour would be "a safe bet for foreign investment". It would be on the side of wealth creators,

innovators and entrepreneurs. New Labour was "changed for good" and would be committed to pursuing a tough low inflation target and macroeconomic stability.

Clearly eager to prevent the runs on sterling that plagued both the Wilson and Callaghan governments, Mr Blair told his inherently sceptical audience that Labour's days as a tax and spend party were over. He also promised that the main elements of the 1980s trade union reforms would stay.

In a meeting with George Soros, the global currency speculator, Mr Blair ruled out taxes on sterling speculators, saying the speed and scale of

transactions made such measures impossible. Mr Soros is credited with pocketing \$1 billion from sterling's ejection from the exchange rate mechanism in 1992.

In his strongest indication yet of his views on a single currency, Mr Blair told friends that it was 80/40 on that core countries would form a single currency in 1999. Mr Blair recognises that bankers are nervous of the single currency experiment, but believes they do not want Britain locked into a second division of Europe.

He intends to make his commitment to Europe a strong theme of his stay, which culminates in a meeting with President Clinton in

Washington tomorrow.

Mr Blair yesterday rejected Fortress Europe, telling the bankers he was "a passionate free trader and unashamed anti-protectionist". He said: "The real danger both in the US and in Europe is coming from a vocal protectionist and isolationist right wing."

Drawing on economic thinking inside the Democrat administration, he argued that governments still had the ability in a global economy to improve "human capital" — the skills of the workforce. He promised not only continuity with the Conservative administration, but key reforms in training, skills, education and welfare.

Mr Blair is treading a deli-

cate path between wholly endorsing Bill Clinton at a time when Bob Dole has a chance of winning the presidency at the end of this year, and being seen as a future prime minister. He would like another Clinton victory even if he feels there are lessons in the way the Clinton administration was blown off course within months of its election.

Mr Blair's schedule includes a mass of TV interviews, Washington cocktail parties and an embassy dinner, before his meeting with Mr Clinton and the vice-president, Al Gore.

Leader's comment, page 8; Darklings of the Chalk, page 12

# Church of England loses a third of its youngsters

**J**ohn Ezard  
The Church of England has lost more than a third of its youth membership in nine years, according to research issued yesterday.

The figures, which will be regarded as near-catastrophic if confirmed by further surveys, are paralleled by a decline in Anglican Scout and

Guide groups. Attendance fell by 16 per cent among mid-teens and 20 per cent among 18-21-year-olds.

This fall-out by the young is far steeper than the 6 per cent decline in church-going by all age groups already reported.

Youth A Part: Young People and the Church, published by the General Synod Board of Education.



Lady Delves Broughton, who dropped her claim for £500,000, will be a witness in the trial

# Top lawyers fight legal aid case over £50m will

Claire Dyer  
Legal Correspondent

**B**RYTAIN'S biggest firm of solicitors is being taken to the High Court by an Old Etonian over a £50 million will, in a case which could cost the taxpayer £250,000.

Legal aid is funding Dominic Hopton in a negligence action against Clifford Chance, the world's second biggest law firm, over the will of his great-uncle, property millionaire Eric Hopton.

The case will fuel the furor over legal aid for the apparently rich, because Mr Hopton, with his older brother and three families is a beneficiary under a £1.5 million discretionary trust. The trust was set up as part of a family arrangement after Mr Hopton's death, whereby the beneficiaries under the previous will and still valid will, signed in 1994, agreed to redistribute his estate.

The largest individual shares, thought to be £5 million each, went to Christopher and Nicholas Hopton, sons of Eric Hopton's brother, John.

Eric Hopton, whose Belgravia Property Company owned some of central London's most expensive residential property, was drawing up a new will when he died of heart failure in 1991. Mr Hopton, aged 22, a student at Edinburgh University, alleges Clifford Chance was negligent in not ensuring the will was finalised and signed sooner.

Mr Hopton's legal aid was originally limited to negotiating a settlement of his claim, but after appealing he was granted funding for the three-week trial, due to start next Tuesday. The Legal Aid Board has already rejected arguments by Clifford Chance that he should not have been granted aid, but Steve Orchard, the board's chief executive, said yesterday that new representations by the firm were being investigated. He claimed she was due a further £500,000 after receiving chattels worth £300,000 and £500,000 in a deal with the

# Key players



□ **George Staple, aged 55,** (below left) director of the Serious Fraud Office since 1993 and member of the council of the Law Society. Former partner at the City law firm Clifford Chance. Acted for Eric Hopton on other matters and was one of the executors of his 1994 will, but the firm says he played no part in drafting the unfinished will.

□ **Lady Delves Broughton** (Rona), aged 55. Her husband, Sir Evelyn, who died in 1993 leaving her £5 million, was a friend of Eric Hopton since Eton. She lives at Doddington Hall, near Nantwich in Cheshire. A member of the council of Lloyd's, she was a co-director of Sir Eric's Belgravia Property Company.

□ **Eric Hopton** (above left), died childless aged 73 in 1991. A member of the Lowndes family, he inherited the Belgravia Property Company — sold in 1994 for £48.5 million. His father and brother were partners in Clifford Chance, which merged in 1987 to become Clifford Chance.

Key witnesses will include the director of the Serious Fraud Office, George Staple, a former partner in Clifford Chance. He was one of Mr Hopton's executors under his 1994 will, but the firm insists he played no part in drafting the new will.

Until last month, Clifford Chance faced a second negligence action over the will, brought by Rona, Lady Delves Broughton, a co-director of Eric Hopton's company and a confidante. Her £500,000 claim was to have been heard with Mr Hopton's, but she dropped out, agreeing to pay Clifford Chance £175,000 towards its £250,000 costs.

She claimed she was due a further £500,000 after receiving chattels worth £300,000 and £500,000 in a deal with the

Hopton family. She will be a witness for Mr Hopton.

Clifford Chance's defence is that neither the firm, nor Eric Hopton, was aware that he was seriously ill. He was taking time over the revisions to his will and had not fully made up his mind. The firm is also expected to argue that the trust set up for Mr Hopton and his brother, who is not suing, is three times the size of the trust that Hopton meant to establish for them.

Mr Hopton's solicitor, Paul Whitaker, said: "My client has not received nor is entitled to receive any money under a settlement. He qualifies for legal aid on the merits of his case after full investigation of his means." He declined to say how much money Mr Hopton was suing for.

# Bosnian Serbs snub peace move

Julian Borger in Sarajevo and John Palmer in Brussels

**T**HE Bosnian Serb leadership last night turned down an invitation to a post-war reconstruction conference in Brussels, in a calculated snub to the international community.

The Serb prime minister, Radjko Kasagic, rejected the invitation on procedural grounds. But diplomats interpreted the rebuff as a victory for Serb hardliners in the Serb stronghold of Pale and a serious setback to attempts to promote the reintegration of the divided country.

In a letter to Carl Bildt, the international community's High Representative in Bosnia, Mr Kasagic said the Serbs would not attend the fundraising conference under what he called the umbrella of a single Bosnia and Herzegovina delegation.

Mr Kasagic demanded that the Bosnian Serbs be given separate and equal representation to the Muslim-Croat Federation, rather than forming part of a joint all-Bosnia delegation.

Mr Bilid accused Mr Kasagic of reneging on a previous agreement, and of further isolating his own people.

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Headed by those who

# EC to vet monetary policy in move to avert currency conflict

continued from page 1  
in Brussels ahead of a meeting of EU finance ministers in Italy this weekend, the European commissioner for economic affairs, Yves Thiebaut de Silguy, dismissed reports that Britain would be obliged to rejoin the ERM or else face trade penalties.

But policies had to be thrashed out inside and outside the single currency group, he said, to ensure stability before monetary union started.

"We are examining a number of different ways of achieving this goal," Mr de Silguy said. "The question of

mandatory membership of the ERM is a technical detail and is not for now. But it is essential that all member states co-ordinate policies for monetary stability and economic convergence. But because the financial markets can develop in different ways we also need monetary solidarity."

Pressed on whether membership of the ERM would be required of all EU countries when the single currency comes into being, Mr de Silguy said: "Among the 15 member states there may be some who will play a vanguard role and others who

will be in the rear. It also depends on what kind of exchange rate mechanism is agreed. Participation in a rigid ERM might be voluntary, but participation in more flexible system might be mandatory."

The commission, together with the EU monetary committee and the European Monetary Institute — the future European central bank — will report to EU finance ministers in Verona tomorrow about progress in confidential negotiations on the relations between currencies in the monetary union and those remaining outside.

The meeting in Verona will also discuss German government proposals for a tough "stability pact" binding those countries in the single currency, including penalties for those exceeding strict limits restricting government budget deficits.

But Mr de Silguy stressed that any such pact would have to be agreed by all 15 EU countries not just those talking part in the single currency.

An agreement relaunching the ERM and fixing the terms of a single currency stability pact will not be finalised until later this year.

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pool, jacuzzi. All cabins are air conditioned and have private bathrooms. For a true escape with that magical combination of culture and relaxation this is surely an opportunity that should not be missed.

**THE MS RA**  
The MS Ra is a large Nile cruiser purpose built in Britain accommodating up to 140 passengers. Facilities on board include a restaurant, lounge, bar, sun deck with swimming



# Police chief's 90mph dash

Duncan Campbell  
Crime Correspondent

ONE of Britain's most senior policemen has been caught speeding at 90mph by his own officers. Yesterday his local police authority expressed regret at the offence and said any possible action would be discussed at its next meeting.

The Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire, Bob Gunn, was stopped by traffic officers driving south on the M11 just before 9am last Saturday. He was off duty and at the wheel of his own Rover 620. The speed limit is 70mph.

Mr Gunn, the secretary of the barterism committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers, was issued with a fixed penalty ticket requiring him to pay a £40 fine, which he has done.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Gunn said: "I naturally very much regret that a lapse of concentration which resulted in me exceeding the speed limit I was correctly reported for the offence. I have informed the police authority."

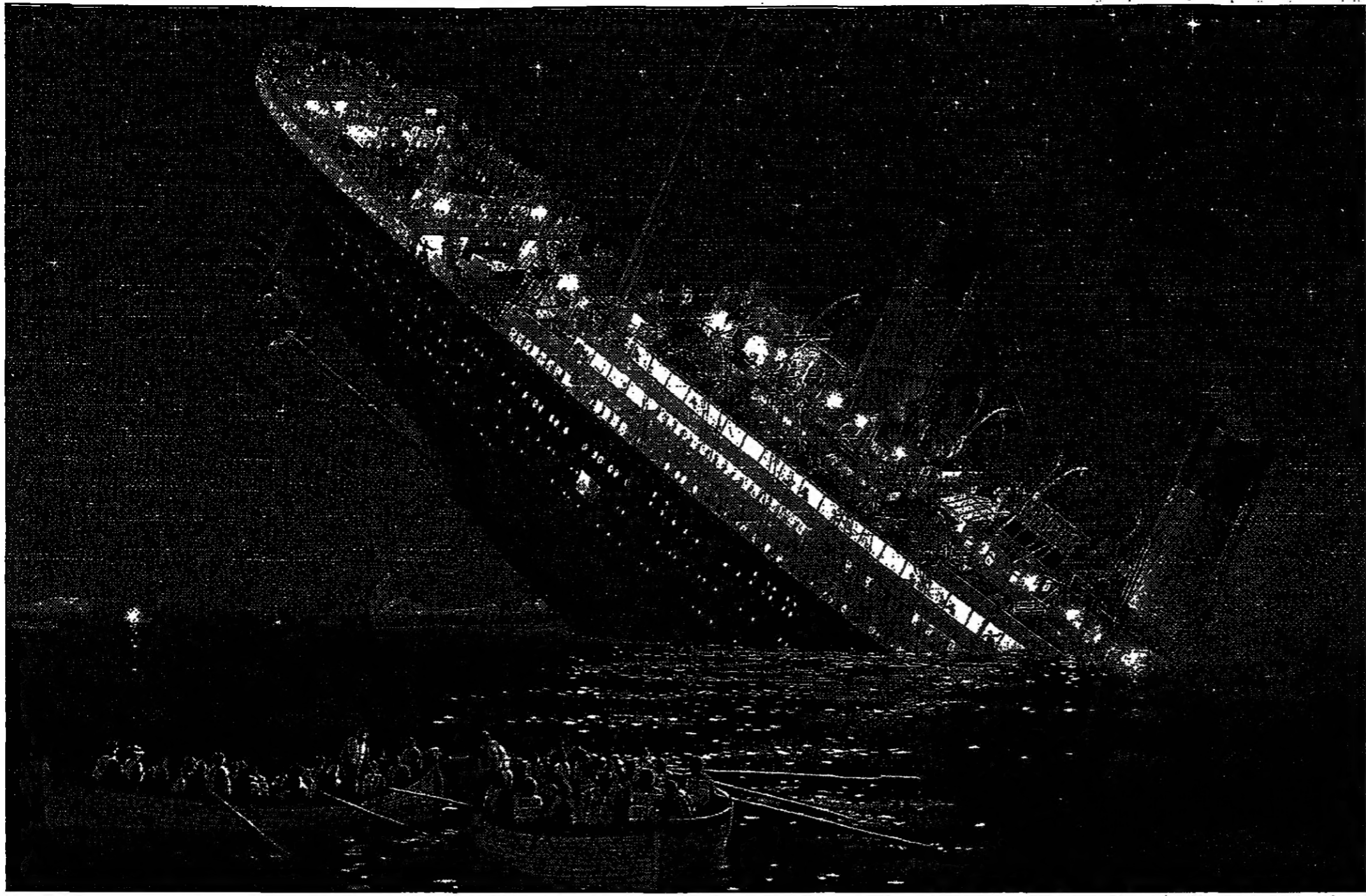
David Earle, the clerk to Cambridgeshire police authority, said: "It is with regret that the authority has learned of the chief constable's personal opinion is that it shouldn't endanger his position, although it's a matter for the police authority and we will give the incident serious consideration." He added the incident demonstrated Cambridgeshire police dealt with everyone in an equally fair way.

Police sources indicated last night that it was extremely unlikely any action would be taken against Mr Gunn. Other senior officers who have been disqualified for much more serious driving offences have not been disciplined.

Mr Gunn, aged 52, one of Britain's best-known chief constables, has held his current post for two years. He joined the police in 1983 and served in the Met, spending 26 years with Special Branch. In January 1988 he was appointed commander (operations) Special Branch.

He is one of a growing group of senior officers to fall foul of the law. Last year, it was revealed that the Assistant Chief Constable of Nottinghamshire, John Dore, had been fined £51 and banned for 12 months after admitting drink-driving in 1970.

Officers who pick up driving offences can lose their jobs, although this normally only applies to serious offences such as drink-driving. In December, Detective Constable David Hale was sacked by Northumbria police for drink-driving after he had been fined £500 and banned from driving for 18 months.



The Titanic goes down with lights still blazing and crew and passengers on board while others escape in lifeboats

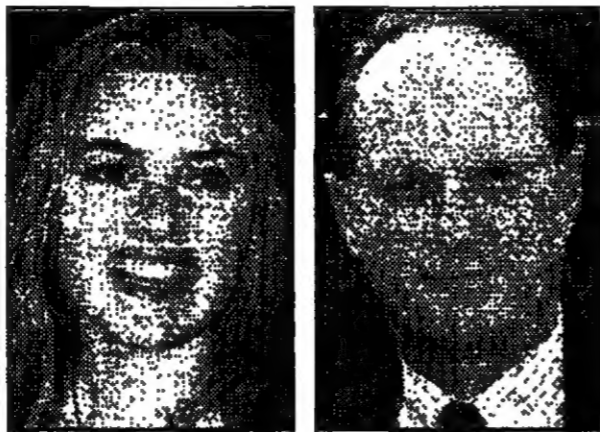
Painting by Ken Marschall from his book on the Titanic

# Titanic 'peepshow' riles last survivors

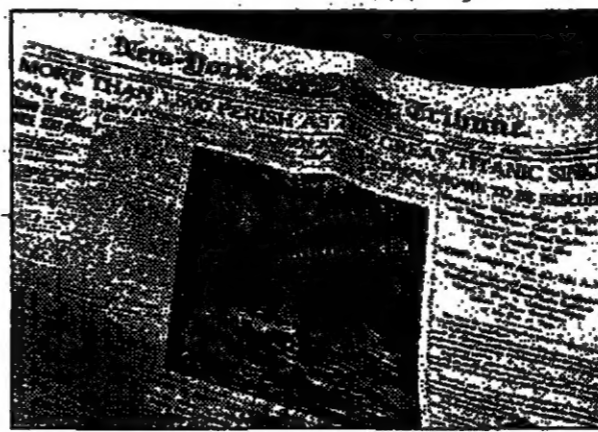
Plans to floodlight the wreck to entertain luxury cruise passengers have sparked horror, writes John Ezard

THE Titanic, the first and most potent single disaster of its century, generated fresh controversy last night when a plan was disclosed to floodlight the wreck as a live television peepshow for luxury cruise passengers.

The decade since the hulk was discovered by Robert Ballard, two miles down on the seabed, has been marked by tension between the lure of commercial exploitation and reverence for the wreck as a grave. With nearly all survivors now dead, fears are growing that the balance has tilted in favour of exploitation.



Potential star Kate Winslet (left), Robert Ballard who found the wreck, and how a New York paper broke the news



How a New York paper broke the news

Iceberg 84 years ago this weekend — were last night described as "horrible" by one of the survivors. "My father's body may still be on that vessel — and yet they are going to use it as a kind of entertainment," said Millyvren Dean, who was nine weeks old when the ship sank in 1912, killing 1,523 people.

Dorothy Kendall, daughter of the survivor Edith Haisman, aged 89, of Southampton, said: "My mother would regard it as eerie. I don't think she would like it at all."

The Titanic "cruise expedition" was unveiled in New York yesterday by George Tulloch, president of RMS Titanic Inc, the company which owns salvage rights to the wreck.

Passengers on the cruise ship Royal Majesty, due to sail from Boston on August 25, will see the wreck "in better illumination and detail than has been possible before", using "the most powerful bank of underwater photography lights ever assembled".

was not in the original scheme put before the committee. Mr Dean, who lives in the New Forest, said: "George Tulloch phoned me a month or so ago and said I was in the brochure for this expedition. I got the impression it was some sort of historic event for oceanographers. I am now writing to him to say that I cannot use my name. I have heard the cruise ship is going to have slot machines and all sorts of entertainment. It's more of a show. When I think of all those people down there, I don't like the idea."

## Rail sell-off chief quits

Franchising Director to go two years early in privatisation blow

Rebecca Smithers  
Political Correspondent

THE Government's rail privatisation plans suffered a serious blow yesterday, as the executive in charge of franchising passenger services announced he plans to step down two years earlier than planned.

Franchising Director Roger Salmon said he felt the programme would be at an advanced stage by the time he leaves in the autumn — and his most important task would have been completed before his role changes into a more supervisory one.

once the franchises are all in private sector hands. So far only four lines have been sold off, but two more are due to be privatised in the next couple of weeks and bids have been invited for seven others.

The next sale expected to be announced is of Network SouthCentral to the French water giant, Compagnie Generale des Eaux. The Franchising Director will in future be a Franchise Manager, monitoring the new operators to ensure they adhere to the terms of their legally complex franchising agreements.

## Ministers approve 12-lane M25

Rebecca Smithers

THE Government is to press ahead with plans to widen the busiest section of the M25 to up to 12 lanes. The move was welcomed by business groups but condemned by Labour as "yesterday's answer to traffic problems".

will accommodate traffic growth well into the next century. But Labour's transport spokesman, Graham Allen, said the plans were "yesterday's answer to traffic problems. Congestion on the M25 does need to be tackled, but this scheme will only generate more traffic, and by the government's own admission, the motorway will be swamped with queues within 10 years of opening. Do we then build a 16-lane motorway?"

Americans have always been less willing to embrace the brutal lexicon of natural selection and random mutation than their less religious European cousins. What is new is the aggressive effort being mounted by creationists to have their own "theory" accorded similar institutional respect to the scientific orthodoxy of evolution. Ian Katz on America's Young Earthers

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Doctors back senior social worker's drug stance

# Ecstasy is 'as safe as taking aspirin'

Vivek Chaudhary

**D**OCTORS and drug relief agencies yesterday rallied to the defence of a senior Scottish social worker who claimed that ecstasy was "relatively safe" and that there was more chance of dying from taking an aspirin.

Mary Hartnoll, Scotland's most senior social worker, made her comments in a private memorandum to John Anderson, Glasgow city council's chief executive.

She was responding to the Glasgow Licensing Board's public campaign against drug taking in bars and clubs across the city and its hard-line approach which has ruled out the setting up of "chill-out" areas on the grounds that this could be seen to condone drug taking.

Ms Hartnoll said the "enforcement" approach to drug misuse in clubs was legitimate, but would not prevent drug misuse on its own.

She writes in the memo: "The irony is that ecstasy, for example, is a relatively safe

drug — risk of death has been calculated as one in 6.8 million — (the risk of dying from an ordinary dose of aspirin is very much greater) and young people tend to know this. For every highly publicised death, those who use the drug regularly balance their experience of their own, and friends' experience of frequent, safe and enjoyable usage. The 'fear' message conveys very little effect in their circumstances."

Ms Hartnoll, who is on holiday, was unavailable for comment.

A spokeswoman for Release, the law and drugs helpline, expressed sympathy for her argument that anti-drugs campaigns designed to inspire fear in young users were counterproductive. "Many people use ecstasy every weekend and do not die and do not have severe side-effects. But there is no such thing as completely safe drug use while drugs remain outside the control of the law."

John Marks, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, claimed Ms Hartnoll's comments were "responsible,

intelligent, and above all, true in contrast to all the other things that are said.

"There were no deaths from ecstasy when it was legally available. The evidence indicates there are no deaths from ecstasy when there are legal, pure supplies available and there is sensible health care advice to go along with it."

Ms Hartnoll's comments, however, were branded "totally irresponsible" by the father of Essex teenager Leah Betts, who died last year after taking an ecstasy tablet on her 18th birthday.

Paul Betts said: "To come from such a prominent person, it's absolutely stupid. She should look at her facts and get her facts right before she makes such a sweeping statement."

James Coleman, chairman of the Glasgow licensing board, said that some local authorities in England had almost given up the ghost "in the fight against ecstasy." "We believe the majority of young people don't take drugs and this type of message sends out the wrong signal to them."



Glaziers from Wells Cathedral, Somerset, work on a medieval style screen at Knightsayes Court, Devon, built mainly of teak reclaimed from Chatham dockyard, Kent. The original screen was removed when the house became a hospital during the first world war. PHOTOGRAPH MARK J RATTENBURY

News in brief

## Ashdown's attacker gets 12 months

A MAN who lashed out at the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown with a four-inch flick-knife was jailed for a year yesterday.

Christopher Mason, aged 51, of Yeovil, Somerset, was sentenced at Taunton crown court after changing his plea to guilty to affray and using or threatening unlawful violence.

Martin Meek, prosecuting, told the court that the attack took place when Mr Ashdown, MP for Yeovil, and the local vicar, the Rev Mark Ellis, were investigating incidents with racial overtones in Yeovil town centre last November. Mason was reported to be extremely drunk and first he tried to kiss Mr Ashdown in the groin. The court was told he then lashed out with the flick-knife but Mr Ashdown, aged 54, a former marine commando who served with the Special Boat Squadron, parried the blow.

Neil Ford, defending, said that Mason, who had made 24 previous court appearances, had been extremely drunk but since being in Dorchester prison for the past four months had sought help from Alcoholics Anonymous. Jailing Mason, Recorder Charles Whitby, QC, told him the knife attack was "dangerous, reckless and wicked". — Vivek Chaudhary

## Photo licences on way

NEW plastic driving licences carrying a photograph of the holder will be introduced early next year, the Government announced yesterday.

The licences should have been introduced in July this year as part of a European Union package which includes a written theory part of the driving test.

But an EU directive has still not been finalised. The Transport Minister, Steven Norris, said: "The public want them and they will bring significant benefits in terms of establishing identity and the prevention of fraud."

## Leeson's wife takes off

LISA Leeson, wife of disgraced former Barings trader Nick Leeson, yesterday landed a job as an air stewardess with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic airline.

Mrs Leeson, 27, who lives at West Kingsdown, in Kent, with her parents, says she expects to report for duty on May 20. Her husband is in prison in Singapore.

## Filling up for summer

SOUTH West Water is filling its biggest reservoir in an attempt to stave off another summer of consumer restrictions.

The company is pumping millions of gallons of river water into Roadford, near Okehampton, in an operation approved by the Environment Agency. The 8 billion gallon capacity reservoir currently holds 3.5 billion gallons, around 38 per cent capacity.

South West Water hopes its 1.4 million gallons a day pumping operation will raise this to around 5.6 billion gallons, thereby avoiding restrictions.

## Street on Sunday

ITV confirmed yesterday that the fourth weekly episode of *Coronation Street* is to be screened on Sunday nights from the autumn. The much-leaked decision was announced by Granada Television in its latest financial report.

Granada had fought for a weekend slot because it will draw valuable London advertising revenue for London Weekend Television, owned by Granada, rather than Carlton, which holds the capital's weekday franchise. — Andrew Culf

## 'Devastated' pub owner quits

THE owner of a pub from which the manager disappeared at the same time as £1,500 collected for the Dumbane charity fund said yesterday that he was quitting the licensed trade.

Frank Newbold said he had lost his faith in human nature and was too devastated to reopen the Hope and Anchor pub in Poplar, east London, after manager Pat Southgate fled to Malaga. The £1,500 charity fund and £3,500 from the pub disappeared at the same time.

## Accident breath tests

THE Association of Chief Police Officers' national council yesterday agreed that drivers involved in any accident should be breath-tested. Only drivers involved in accidents involving injuries or fatalities are tested. Senior officers are concerned that a minority of drivers is ignoring the laws on drink driving. — Duncan Campbell

**The horror that the pictures of Diana's thighs engendered was something like the impact of 16th century portraits with a death's head lurking in the corner. Even beautiful princesses get old.**

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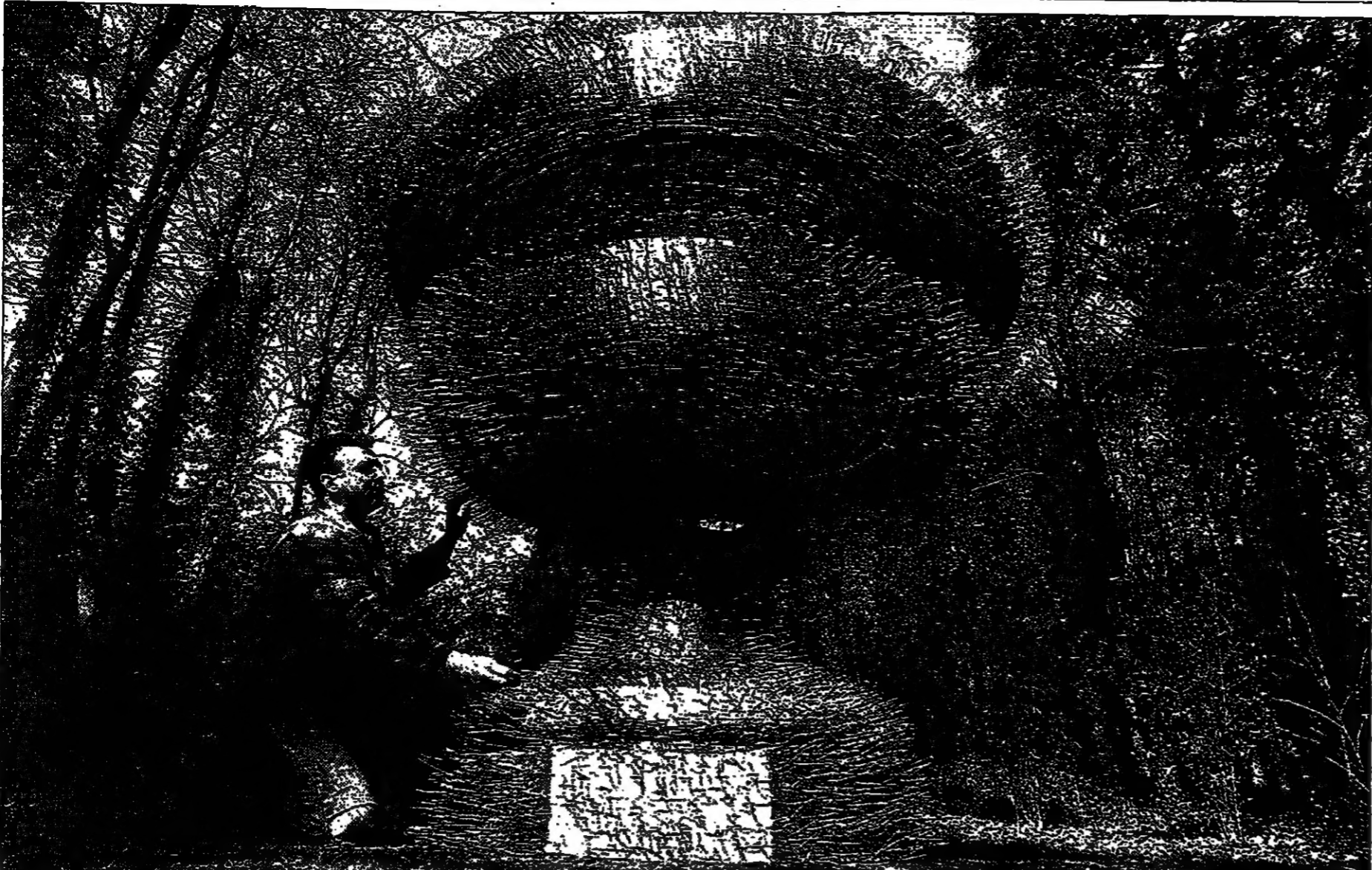
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Electronic ABS	included	£365	included	included	included	
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Sculptor David Mach installs his sugar bowl urn sculpture, made from 6,200 galvanised wire coat hangers, at Hat Hill Sculpture Park near Chichester, Sussex. The sculpture was based on the largest garden urn in Britain at Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire, a National Trust property

## Tory labour laws 'encourage factory closures'

Tim Radford  
Science Editor

ONE of Britain's top export-earning industries has told the Labour Party that Conservative employment laws designed to attract foreign investment also made it easier for international corporations to shut down factories in Britain.

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, ABPI, yesterday revealed that it has been lobbying the Labour Party to ensure a secure working relationship with any future administration. High on the list of concerns, according to Tim Medinger, the association's president, was the fact that if Britain was an easy place for multinational companies to base themselves, it was also an easy place for them to quit.

After what he described as a "hell of a year" which saw the creation of Glaxo-Wellcome as the world's biggest pharmaceutical company, and the establishment of Pharmacia Upjohn's international base in Britain, the industry was riding high.

The industry put up a record £2 billion for research — about 20 per cent of all research and development in Britain. But at the same time the UK lagged near the bottom of the league in the number of prescriptions written

and their cost to the National Health Service. The industry last year produced 24 new "chemical entities" — new drugs rather than improvements on old ones — and provided work directly or indirectly for 300,000 people.

But the ABPI criticised the Government's dwindling investment in basic science at universities. The ABPI's director general, Trevor Jones, said: "The money available for research — for the research councils — has not increased, in fact, it has gone downwards."

The association said it wants to persuade any future government to take even more interest in medicine — especially if it can be shown to reduce hospital costs. "Cheap prescribing is by no means always good prescribing, and it is important that the benefits of medicines, and not solely their cost, are taken into account when deciding how to treat patients," Dr Jones said.

## Parole plan 'may put jail officers' lives at risk'

Alan Travis  
Home Affairs Editor

THE abolition of automatic early release for inmates proposed by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, could endanger the lives of prison officers, Judge Stephen Tumm warned yesterday.

The proposals for minimum sentences amount to a denial of justice. It prevents the judge measuring the deserts for the prisoner. It removes the judge's independence and makes him an instrument of the executive.

At the launch of a new book on penal policy, Prisons 2000, Judge Tumm said he was particularly worried by Mr Howard's plan to remove all but a very limited amount of parole or remission which will have to be earned by each inmate.

"If you are not going to get parole or remission then you might as well beat up or murder a prison officer," he said. "It will be based on continuous assessment by prison officers. It means that ordinary prison officers will have the power to interfere with the judgment of the judges."

Prisons 2000, Edited by Roger Matthews and Peter Francis, Macmillan, £14.99.



Judge Stephen Tumm ... attack on white paper

## Newsagents free to reject porn mags, says supplier

Andrew Gull  
Media Correspondent

PORNOGRAPHIC magazines could be swept off the top shelves of many independent newsagents after a move by W H Smith News, which supplies 20,000 newsagents, to enable them to opt out of stocking adult titles.

The newspaper and magazine arm of the high street chain said the move clarified its existing policy, but campaigners against pornography were claiming a partial victory.

W H Smith operates a "box-out" system, whereby a pre-packed selection of items is sent to customers. Newsagents can elect not to receive the 80 adult titles in the package, but some complain that their wishes have not been respected.

## 'Neighbours from hell' must quit council home, says judge

A FAMILY of 17, known as "the neighbours from hell", are being evicted from their council home in Wythenshawe, Manchester, after 500 complaints.

"In the teeth of harassment and intimidation, these extraordinarily brave individuals were determined to appear in court to fight for themselves and their community," a council spokeswoman said.

## Manager grew cannabis on earl's estate

EARL Waldegrave's farm manager was yesterday convicted of growing cannabis at his employer's Somerset estate.

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# 'They were destroyed by those who hate everything beautiful and pure'

Julian Borger in Sarajevo reports on the simple burial ceremony for the city's most famous lovers, and the grieving for a way of life that was shattered by the war

SARAJEVO buried its most famous lovers yesterday, a young Serb and his Muslim girlfriend who were killed for trying to stay together while Bosnia was being torn apart.

Admira Ismic and Bosko Berkic were shot dead on Sarajevo's front line three years ago as they tried to escape the siege. Their bodies were dragged away and hastily buried on the Serb side of the lines.

Admira's family had to wait for a peace settlement and the reunification of the city to bring the lovers home.

Under an angry sky and spitting rain, the two coffins were lowered into a shared grave marked by two simple wooden memorials bearing their names. There were no priests and no prayers — just brief personal goodbyes from old schoolfriends.

"Your young lives were destroyed by those who hate everything beautiful and pure, but your friends have not forgotten you," said a man in a trenchcoat. "If noth-

ing else we'll visit your grave in a free town."

A girl standing at his side said: "In another life, we'll all be together again."

After their deaths at the age of 25, the press dubbed the couple the Romeo and Juliet of the Bosnian war.

The lovers met at school eight years before the war, when most Sarajevans gave little thought to their ethnic identity. The innocence of their generation was buried beside them in a country finding it difficult to heal itself while crude nationalism still prevails over tolerance.

Most of yesterday's mourners were friends of the Ismic family. Bosko's family was scattered by the war. His father is dead and his mother and brother are said to be in Belgrade or Canada.

Admira's parents accepted condolences and flowers with a blank, uncomprehending expression. After the ceremony, as the mourners walked towards the cemetery gate, Neza Ismic broke down in tears and turned back to

bug and kiss her daughter's small memorial.

Zijah, her husband, watched helplessly, looking lost and bewildered beneath the black baseball cap he wore against the spring rain.

Determined to escape the war, Admira and Bosko thought they had secured guarantees from both sides of safe passage out of the city. They were double-crossed and gunned down in May 1993 near Vrbanja bridge, a frontline position near the city centre, a few yards from safety.

In her dying moments, Admira crawled to Bosko's body and put her arm over his shoulder. Their bodies were left in that final embrace for five days, while the opposing armies squabbled over who was to blame and who should venture out of their bunkers to retrieve them.

It was never clear who betrayed the couple. Zijah Ismic commissioned a private autopsy this week which he believes proves they were shot by the Serbs.

But his certainty has brought little consolation. "It's more important to bury them here than find out who shot them, as they're dead anyway," he said. "I can't change what happened, can't bring them back to life."

When the war broke out,



Admira's mother says a sad farewell at the lovers' final resting place in Sarajevo yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH: DARIO BANCIC

## Pact sours Turkish-Arab ties

Chris Nutball in Ankara

TURKEY'S relations with its Muslim neighbours and the Arab world were further strained yesterday when it announced that it had asked Iran to withdraw four of its diplomats for 'activities incompatible with their status'.

The foreign ministry said four Turkish diplomats, accused by Tehran of spying, would also be recalled.

"Our diplomats carried out their duties in accordance with international law," the ministry's spokesman, Omer Akbel, said. "They have been accused unjustly."

The Iranian diplomats had been named as his contacts by an Islamic fundamentalist "hitman" arrested in Istanbul last month.

He is wanted in connection with the assassination of Iranian dissidents and prominent Turkish secularists.

The tit-for-tat exchange follows a week of intense criticism of Turkey for signing a military co-operation deal with Israel. Islamic countries regard the deal as a betrayal and the formation of a new axis to threaten them.

The Arab League said it was "an act of aggression and a direct threat against Syria, Lebanon and Iraq as well as other Arab countries (which) shows the evil inten-

tions of Israel and Turkey towards the Arabs".

The Egyptian foreign minister, Amr Musa, said it was "very dangerous in relation to the region's security; this will create new tensions in the Middle East".

Iranian newspapers commented: "We now have to worry about the presence of Israeli jet fighters on our doorstep."

The Iraqi press said the deal would "encourage the Zionist entity to continue its

allowed to carry out training flights in Turkish airspace. "The planes do not carry weapons, ammunition or intelligence equipment," Mr Akbel said yesterday, confirming that the flights had begun.

He said relations with Israel had been developing since the start of the Middle East peace process, but Turkey still supported Arab countries demanding the return of invaded lands. Turkey was not the only country

Turkish air force Phantom fighter bombers. Visa requirements have been dropped, and 300,000 Israelis are taking holidays in Turkey each year.

Although Turkey is a Muslim republic, its secular government has recognised an affinity with Israel. They are the only Western-style democracies in the Middle East and both are establishing closer ties with the European Union.

On the key issue of water shortages in the Middle East, Turkey and Israel are working on a project to collect and ship water from the Manavgat river. Turkey is the only country in the region with excess water and would sell the Manavgat surplus to Israel.

Turkey is in dispute with Syria and Iraq about the amount of water its dams allow to flow down the Tigris and Euphrates into their countries.

Syria has denied reports of an agreement with Greece to use each other's airbases, countering the Turo-Israeli pact.

"Turkey has been too much pro-Arab in the past," said Suha Boukhabza, a professor of international relations in Ankara. "Now it's become too much pro-Israeli."

Turkey is in dispute with Israel's national interest. Israel does not have that much to offer and this is creating unnecessary tensions. A military co-operation agreement between Turkey and Israel or any other country in the region is unprecedented, but I don't think it's as comprehensive as its opponents fear."

Turkish security forces have killed four illegal Afghan immigrants and arrested eight others on Turkey's border with Iran, the Anatolian news agency said yesterday.

The agency said a fight broke out between the Afghans and Turkish soldiers as the 12 tried to cross the border in eastern Turkey.

It said the incident began when the Afghans opened fire in response to a call by Turkish soldiers to stop.

asked. There was silence in the 150ft-high aircraft hangar. "It is the queue for the cemetery."

He proceeded to rattle off the statistics of what appeared to be a terminal decline. Did we know, for example, that 1 million Russians died last year?

Turning to his recent travels in Ivanovo, a textile area devastated by mill closures, he went on: "One mother told me that she was afraid to wake her children up in the morning because she didn't have anything to give them for breakfast."

The gloomier he got, the better his message went down.

But despite the hardships which economic reform had brought, 5 million Russians were involved in small business and to get

## Zyuganov woos with tales of woe

The Russian Communist leader vows that his party will not repeat past mistakes, reports David Hearst from Voronezh

WORKSHOP Number Seven was a good place for Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party, to launch his attack on the Kremlin.

Behind the podium lay six gleaming Russian jumbo jets. All were completed and awaiting Pratt & Whitney engines and Rockwell-Collins avionics from their American partners. Skulking in the shadows was Boris Yeltsin's private jet, which has yet to be delivered to the president for lack of money. The irony was not lost on the audience.

Vyacheslav Kuzmin, chief of foreign economic co-operation, squirmed as he explained the difficulties faced by the factory. There were suspicions in Voronezh that their arch-rival Boeing was trying to stop Rockwell-Collins delivering the avionics they were contracted to supply.

"Boeing tried to put the brakes on the programme and now we have a delay which violates the trilateral agreement," he said.

He shrugged. The factory had at last entered the cut-throat world of a fiercely competitive industry. They had good, cheap jumbo planes. Not a single Ilyushin 86 had crashed in 17 years. They had a poten-

tially huge market. By the year 2000 more than 900 Russian aircraft would be over 20 years old. But no one had money to build the new planes.

Could their new Ilyushin 96 do any better under the Communists? The 5,000 aircraft workers listened eagerly to Mr Zyuganov.

Nothing in a Russian presidential campaign conforms to Western standards and, instead of trying to cheer up his audience, the candidate related statistics of industrial decline.

"Do you know what is the biggest queue in Russia today?" Mr Zyuganov

rid of them would start a civil war, he said.

"We have to keep all forms of ownership. I am in favour of every family keeping its own plot of land."

Later that day in a packed hall in the centre of town, Mr Zyuganov laid part of the problem at the feet of the old Communist Party, of which he was still a member six years ago.

"We really have only ourselves to blame. We weren't doing the necessary reforms. We maintained command administrative distance which suited wartime conditions but was completely obsolete for today's needs. The party tried to conserve its monopoly of ownership of power and of truth, but it ended up not only destroying itself but our country," he said to loud applause.

Valentina, a 35-year-old aircraft worker, was impressed by the Communist leader's performance.

"I like my work but I only get paid 200,000 roubles a month (about £30) and my flat costs me 120,000 roubles. I cannot have a second child and I want my daughter to attend university. Who do I vote for? Certainly not Yeltsin, but I still have not decided whether I trust Zyuganov."

Virtually barred from appearing on television, Mr Zyuganov can only deliver his message by going directly to the people. He appeared young, healthy and sober. The comparison with the president was not favourable to Mr Yeltsin.

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### News in brief

#### Israeli soldier killed by Hizbullah shelling

AN ISRAELI soldier was killed and three were wounded in south Lebanon yesterday when Hizbullah fighters shelled their outpost with mortar bombs.

The soldier died of his wounds after dozens of bombs hit Biat outpost in the western sector of the Israeli-held zone. In Beirut, Lebanon, Hizbullah sources in the South Lebanon Army militia said.

In reprisal, Israeli and SLA

#### 'Shocking' sexual harassment could cost Mitsubishi \$100m

THE United States's biggest-ever sexual harassment case is being brought against a Mitsubishi factory in Illinois by the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, on the eve of President Clinton's departure for Tokyo, writes Martin Walker in Washington.

More than 300 women are cited in the government agency's case against the Mitsubishi factory, and each case could result in a maximum fine and compensation of \$300,000 (\$200,000).

But even if the firm is hit with the full penalty, which could come to as much as \$100 million, Mitsubishi is

#### Sons of Algerian opposition leader charged in Germany

GERMAN prosecutors said yesterday they had charged two sons of the Algerian fundamentalist opposition leader, Abassi Madani, with explosives offences and belonging to a criminal organisation.

Salim and Ikbal Abassi are accused of involvement in a group smuggling arms to anti-government forces in Algeria. Two other men were charged with belonging to the group.

Abassi Madani is the co-founder of the fundamentalist

#### Skulls found in jail oven

HUMAN skulls, thigh bones and other fragments were found in the ovens of an Argentine maximum-security prison where seven inmates disappeared during a revolt that ended on Sunday, law enforcement officials said yesterday.

The discovery was made at the Sierra Chica prison in Azul, in the south of Buenos Aires province, where 1,000 inmates remained last week, setting off revolts in 20 other prisons. — New York Times.

#### 2,000 join anti-Peng protest

ABOUT 2,000 demonstrators gathered near the Eiffel Tower last night after a day of protest against the visit of the Chinese prime minister, Li Peng, writes Paul Webster in Paris.

Protesters marched on the Champs-Elysees and assembled under the banners of 30 human rights organisations concerned by political repression in China and Tibet.

The organising committee, called We Will Not Forget Tiananmen, protested against a decision to ban gatherings around the Chinese embassy.

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# India's poor are lepers in misery city

Charities are the only hope for the needy in Calcutta, writes **Suzanne Goldenberg**

**S**INDU Bala Ghosh can rattle off the warning signs of leprosy with ease: white patches on the skin, numbness and pain in the fingers. But when she developed the symptoms, she did nothing. She knew too well that her family and neighbours would shun her, and that is what happened.

Mrs Ghosh, who still has the sindoor, the red powder in the hair parting worn by Hindu wives in some parts of India even though she has been abandoned by her family, lives alone on a Calcutta street, begging for scraps of food to survive.

"If I go to talk to people, they turn away," she says. "And then I talk to God and ask him why he has done this to me."

Six years after the onset of the disease, which can be deceptively slow at first, a wound is oozing through the bandage on her right foot and her hands have become useless claws. Twice a month she makes the painful journey by rickshaw, train and bus to Chitpur, north Calcutta, where her wounds are bathed and she is treated like a human being.

For many the clinic, which operates under tarpaulin held up by bamboo poles on the banks of the Hooghly river, is the only hope against the disease.

Run by Jack Preger, a British doctor, the clinic is one of several projects for the most wretched of Calcutta's citizens.

While Mother Teresa is Calcutta's most celebrated benefactor, several other foreign charities operate in the city, many the result of sheer will-power of individuals moved by Calcutta's reputation of a city of despair.

Unlike Mother Teresa, they have no champions to help them negotiate India's labyrinthine bureaucracy and its sensitivity to foreign scrutiny of the country's poverty.

Dr Preger, from Manchester, moved to Calcutta in 1979 after he was expelled from Bangladesh for exposing the traffic in babies. His Calcutta

Rescue runs the leprosy camp, two medical clinics and two schools, staffed by 190 local people, including 17 doctors. A cast of western volunteers serve for a few months at a time.

For the most part his doctors attend to the diseases of poverty and the ailments that other doctors turn away from: tuberculosis, malnutrition in children, leprosy. The clinics give out free medicine and food, and pay for hospitals for the very sick.

At the mother and baby clinic at Tala Park, the misery is unending. Nur Jehan's four-month-old daughter is so wasted that her skin hangs from her tiny frame in wrinkled folds. Her mother mixes up the cereal she has just been given and spoons it into the baby's mouth. "I think soon she will be better," she says.

After more than 15 years in Calcutta, Dr Preger says he can see few signs that the misery has lessened. "There is a fair amount of intense suffering. It is very difficult for someone who is very poor to get treated properly."

Dr Preger was made an MBE in 1993 for his services to the poor, but in 1991 he was jailed for eight days on charges of operating clandestinely as a foreign missionary. He was eventually cleared after eight years.

Three years ago his private clinic in central Calcutta was shut down and he was forced to move to the northern fringes of the city, beyond the reach of many of the needy.

Since 1989 he has been fighting to get Calcutta Rescue registered as a charity, which would help bring in money raised by British and European supporters.

Last year Calcutta Rescue nearly closed for lack of cash after the authorities refused to approve a transfer of funds. It needs one million rupees (nearly £20,000) a month. Dr Preger says he was told that bureaucrats were sitting on the files until they could get their cut.

Since then Calcutta Rescue appears to have won a temporary reprieve. Last month, after a year of litigation, the Calcutta high court allowed him to bring in funds until next October, and urged the government to reconsider its refusal to register his charity.

But Dr Preger is still not sure the battle with bureaucracy is over.



Narrow escape... Tyronne Dennis, a Liberian, and her daughter, an American citizen, run from a helicopter in Freetown yesterday to a Dakar-bound plane

## 'Ceasefire' fails to prevent Liberian exodus

**Nyrensi Allison in Monrovia**

**H**UNDREDS of foreigners queued outside the United States embassy in Monrovia yesterday hoping for lifts on military helicopters out of the embattled Liberian capital.

Tanks from the West African peacekeeping force patrolled parts of the city after Liberia's warring factions appeared to reach a tenuous agreement to end four days of fierce fighting, shelling and looting.

There were reports of sporadic gunfire and shelling and a spokesman for the US embassy said he could not confirm that there had been a ceasefire.

"There are long lines of people of all nationalities that are trying to get into the American embassy compounds," he said.

Up to 600 people were waiting patiently outside the gates for screening to see whether they qualified

to join the airlift. American citizens, Liberians with US residential cards or passports, and third country nationals were eligible for evacuation.

A team of 18 navy commandos was flown to Liberia to reinforce security at the embassy.

we left Liberia, but thank God we got out safely," one American woman gasped as she took three children from the helicopter on to a C-130 cargo plane taking the evacuees to accommodation in Dakar, Senegal. The UN envoy to Liberia, Anthony Nyakyl, said a

African peacekeepers acting as a buffer. It said the rebels had begun releasing some of the African peacekeepers they were holding. But fighting still sounded intense yesterday outside the embassy compound. Paul Koulen, an official

Up to 15,000 civilians, ranging from foreign diplomats to missionaries and Liberians, have fled to the US embassy compounds and UN offices since Saturday, when the worst fighting in three years erupted in Monrovia.

Mr Koulen said the 200 UN workers in Monrovia were running short of food.

"We still have some military rations here that we can survive on," Mr Koulen said.

"It's not yet desperate, but in a couple of days, it will be."

**'It was very tense when we left but thank God we got out safely,' a woman gasped as she took three children from the helicopter to a cargo plane heading for Dakar, Senegal**

By yesterday afternoon 202 foreigners had been evacuated, including the Egyptian ambassador, Ahmad el-Misiri.

According to Commander Bob Anderson, a spokesman for the US European Command in Germany who is with the evacuation team in neighbouring Sierra Leone, about half the evacuees were Americans.

"It was very tense when

of the UN development programme, said the ceasefire might have been only a verbal agreement, and appeared to be collapsing.

He said that tanks from the West African peacekeeping forces had moved into the Mamba Point district, where foreign embassies and the UN offices are located, but that troops were doing little to protect people or property.

The BBC, quoting a spokesman for the African peacekeepers, said that the rebel leader Roosevelt Johnson had agreed under the terms of the ceasefire to turn himself in to authorities.

Later, however, the BBC reported that Mr Johnson had said he would not surrender. — AP.

The BBC, quoting a spokesman for the African peacekeepers, said that the rebel leader Roosevelt Johnson had agreed under the terms of the ceasefire to turn himself in to authorities.

Later, however, the BBC reported that Mr Johnson had said he would not surrender. — AP.

# Brando takes it all back

**Christopher Reed in Los Angeles**

**A**CONTRITE Marlon Brando will visit a Jewish museum tomorrow to apologise for saying that Jews "own" and "run" Hollywood, and have abused their power by insulting portrayals of minority groups while avoiding negative depictions of Jews.

His remarks on CNN's Larry King Live television chat show on Friday were criticised as anti-Semitic.

The actor, aged 73, who won an Oscar for his role in the Godfather in 1972, agreed to visit the Los Angeles Museum of Tolerance, run by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, and make a public statement about his remarks. The visit was arranged by Rabbi Marvin Hier, the centre's founder.

Mr Hier said Brando had telephoned him, expressed remorse, and recalled his support for Israel in the past.

"I told him: 'Marlon, I never thought you were an anti-Semite, but the words you used on the show were music to the ears of racists and bigots all over the world,'" Mr Hier said.

In films, Brando said on the television show, "We've seen the nigger, and the greaseball. We've seen the chink and the slit-eyed dangerous Jap. We've seen the wily Filipino. We've seen everything. But we never saw the like because they know perfectly well that that's where you draw the wagons around."

Although there is little substance in his remark about Jews owning Hollywood — banks and Wall Street, including huge investments from Japan, France and elsewhere, finance the studios — some agreed with him that Jews were treated with velvet gloves in Hollywood films.

But Abraham Foxman, director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, vowed to make the actor's life "a living hell".

"I'm not sure it goes far enough," he said of the museum visit. "He's not a kid going to a museum. He's an adult who's had these views for 25 years."

Brando's agent Jay Kanter, himself a Jew, said: "Anyone trying to say Marlon is anti-Semitic has got the wrong guy".

But he acknowledged that his client had used unfortunate language.

## Gary Carries Off A BIG Saving



Emily gets carried away with Norwich Union Direct

**T**HANKS to Norwich Union Direct, Gary Russell saved so much on his car insurance that he was able to buy his daughter her own deluxe transport - a top of the range carry cot!

When baby Emily was born, accountant Gary, 29, and his wife Julie, 30, knew they would have to keep a tight rein on their spending. But they still had to insure their Rover 416.

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Says Gary at the family's home in Berkampstead, Herts.: "We got a tremendous deal. Norwich Union Direct's quote was much cheaper than the others, and their advisers were delightful to deal with."

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An official smokescreen
Voluntary controls on public smoking will not work

KICKING the habit of smoking is hard: breaking a government pledge to do something about it seems to be a good deal easier. Four years ago the Department of the Environment said that it would consider legislation to enforce smoking controls in public places. Four months ago officials indicated that the time had come to consider taking such action. On Tuesday environment minister James Clappison said no: the government had changed its mind. His about-turn was obscured by a smokescreen, if the word may be used, of useless exhortation. Some types of public places had made "great strides" in implementing an effective policy to provide smoke-free areas: Mr Clappison urged others to follow their example. It is doubtful whether many licensed victuallers or restaurateurs will even notice that the minister is urging them to take action. The DoE's research report "Smoking in Public Places" which he was introducing is also unlikely to be widely read. Government documents which are issued the day after a Bank Holiday don't usually stir up enormous controversy. But that could not possibly be relevant to the timing of the release, could it? This announcement is not of a technical nature: it will affect anyone who goes anywhere in public. The original DoE 1992 white paper accepted the need for smoke-free zones to be available in all categories of public buildings or facilities. Its purpose was unequivocally to protect non-smoking members of the public. Mention of "passive smoking" now attracts groans and ridicule only from a small minority of those refusing to believe the overwhelming weight of opinion. Everyone else from the Department of Health to independent researchers accepts that inhaling other people's smoke is damaging to health — and particularly so for the young and those suffering from respira-

tory problems. The 1992 statement set out a reasonable objective: to achieve an effective smoking policy in 80 per cent of public places within two years, or else consider legislation. The target has clearly not been achieved: only schools and health centres have come close to meeting it. Last December as the report now published was in final draft stage, the DoE went on the record to The Guardian to say that the time had come to "honour (the) pledge". The junior minister's repudiation now of this pledge is not only wrong but comes at the worst possible time. The sharp rise in teenage smoking is particularly alarming: 12 per cent of 11- to 15-year olds now smoke regularly. New evidence also underlines the connection between deprivation and smoking. This is not an issue of civil liberties and the government has a plain duty to act where health and safety is at stake. Even conservative ministers will find it hard to claim that market forces can solve the problem: the market forces which do prevail — perhaps especially when an election is drawing near — are those of the tobacco firms. Even though the industry has begun to be thrown on to the defensive in the US courts, it still has enormous resources with which to protect its enormous interests. Banning tobacco advertisements is another issue which has been ducked in Whitehall — even though the Department of Health accepts that just a one per cent drop in smoking would save over one thousand lives a year. It is unfortunately not enough to rely on voluntary measures. Too often this becomes an alibi for the failure of the public or private sector to take proper action on behalf of the ill-protected consumer or employee. We need to know — from a senior not a junior minister — why the government has changed its mind. And if it is that easy, then it should be changed back again.

Performance-related ministers

Michael Howard might find himself paying us for his office

PROBATION officers are upset by the latest move of Michael Howard: introducing performance-related pay to the service. They are right to be suspicious of the criteria and targets which he would select. Perhaps a bonus, for example, for the officer who makes the most recommendations for imprisonment in their social inquiry reports. But rather than continue to resist the idea, there is another option: insist on the Home Secretary taking a spoon of his own medicine too. If, as ministers are insisting, performance-related pay is appropriate for police officers, teachers, the armed forces, civil servants, diplomats and even MI5 officers, then why shouldn't it apply to ministers as well? Indeed, the idea is not as new as might be believed. It was quietly suggested by the Downing Street policy unit in 1992 but quickly squashed by John Major. In the words of one academic observer of Whitehall: "a classic case of institutional hypocrisy: we're special but everyone else must be reformed." Time to try again. Michael Howard is as good a guinea pig as any to launch the new programme. The key to success, as he knows, is selecting the right criteria. So let us be fair and begin with his strongest card: the crime rate. Three successive annual reports have recorded falling figures. A cumulative drop of 10 per cent over three years. But in the three previous years there were phenomenal increases of 13, 18, and 11 per cent or 42 per cent over all. So Michael Howard's

starting salary, coinciding as it did with the end of that period, would have been at a record low. Indeed, if the Home Secretary's pay was directly linked to each percentage rise or fall in the crime rate, he could still be paying the Home Office for the honour of his office since crime has risen by more than 101 per cent since the Conservatives came to power in 1979. There are two other obvious criteria: operations and policy. Michael Howard denies he is involved in operations but thanks to the Learmonth Report and the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, Judge Tummim, we know that to be a lie. In the words of Judge Tummim, dividing responsibilities between policy (Mr Howard) and operations (the Prison Director), was bogus and left Mr Howard "responsible for nothing at all." So the serious prison escapes under Howard both produce serious deductions to the Home Secretary's £70,000 salary (plus Parliamentary allowances). Then there are his policy initiatives. Let those be assessed by a special board: the Lord Chief Justice, Judge Tummim, the prison governors, the union representing senior civil servants, and the probation service. All have condemned the incumbent. If Michael Howard remains undeterred there is a further PRP element the efficiency test which bars promotion beyond a person's competence. Is any minister who sold us the poll tax and then privatised water qualified to become Home Secretary? We think not.

Rocking all the way to the polls

Can music help reconnect the young to the political system?

"I DO hope the launch of Rock the Vote is a success," said John Major in an unstinting endorsement of the music industry's youth voter registration campaign which kicked off yesterday. He deserves credit for this. Not that his sentiment is controversial. An estimated 40 per cent of 18-24 year olds failed to vote in the last election, half of them because they weren't interested, and the others because they weren't even registered. It's not quite true to say, as Demos did recently, that "an entire generation has opted out of politics", but they are disconnected from the political system. It isn't apathy. Two thirds of them claim to have taken part in protests on roads, animals, jobs. Yet they don't always bother to check they are registered to hit the politicians in the one place where it hurts — in the ballot box. This may be because they don't know how or when to register, or they move

home too frequently, but often they have a fear of registration that started with the poll tax and has now become a habit. At least 600,000 drifted off the electoral register as a result of the poll tax, according to research by Iain McLean and Jeremy Smith of Warwick University, but far fewer drifted back. That is why John Major deserves some credit. If Rock the Vote persuades more young people to register and vote, few are likely to vote Conservative. In America it helped Clinton and here it would almost certainly help Blair. On ICM's adjusted figures, 54 per cent of 18-24 year-olds would vote Labour and 20 per cent Conservative, compared to 47 and 29 per cent respectively of the population as a whole. But these figures exclude the don't knows and therefore obscure the real problem. Young people are still disproportionately undecided and unregistered. That is why Rock the Vote deserves the support of all parties.



Letters to the Editor

Get real about this world

FULL marks to Hugo Young for discussing the Real World Initiative (Commentary, April 9). The environment is the sleeping giant of British politics which needs to be awoken. Real World can but help. I must, however, take issue with his statement that questions thrown up by the broad, environmental issue are not answerable by party. For over 20 years, the Green Party has been campaigning on precisely the points he mentions, highlights and, what is more, proposing solutions. There is no doubt that conversion to a sustainable society will be a long and huge undertaking, which will require more than simple political impetus from Westminster. But such impetus is also a necessary part of a movement for change. A significant proportion of the public have doubts about the direction of our growth-orientated economics and would seriously consider voting for a change in direction and ethos. Sadly, they know the Real World consequences of our electoral system. There is little chance of Green representation with a first-past-the-post electoral system. The

other parties will not address these long-term problems because they can get away with keeping their heads down. Paul Anderson, East Midlands Green Party, 60 Ferveril Road, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 2HU. ALTHOUGH a remarkable and worthy achievement, the critical influence that Real World aims to achieve cannot, unfortunately, be achieved purely by lobbying the main political parties. These parties are all concerned with maximising economic growth and short-term profit-making in the suicidally competitive world market economy — the very system that is wrecking havoc on the globe and its people. The only way real political clout can be gained is by building up strong and active Green parties, as they have done in Germany, Finland and many other countries. Non-Green parties may pay lip service to green issues but it is way down their political agenda. Only when they start losing votes will politicians sit up and take notice. Bill Hughes, 16 Goddard Avenue, Swindon SN1 4ER.

THE lack of peace-movement organisations is conspicuous by its absence in Jonathon Porritt's Real World initiative (Common touch in a real world, April 9). Secondly, even if something like Trident is too frightening for the Real World, the lack of any reference to even the "civilian" nuclear industry (in the run-up to the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster) is astounding in the context of the declared aims of the project. Thirdly, why is the whole thrust of this campaign geared towards the policies of political parties rather than how we can solve things ourselves by changing our own lives? Lastly, if this initiative is to focus on standards to be demanded of others, then it shouldn't have so carefully avoided any reference to the most obvious underlying strategy necessary for the achievement of many of its aims: the need to confront multinational corporations. What might look to an exciting synthesis looks to others of us more like a lowest common denominator. Albert Seale, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

Chief Inspector evaluated and found to be incompetent

THE core argument in your education leader (April 9) seems to be that Ofsted is "good" for schools and that its chief inspector should be praised for giving a "high profile" to "failing standards" and "incompetent" teachers. Conversely, you argue that the teaching profession is "too insular and defensive" for opposing the current system of inspection and its identification of "poor" teachers. Well, of course we oppose the current system of inspection. It is hard to see how one week's inspection can tell us anything meaningful about either teachers or schools. I'm a highly qualified and experienced support teacher, and spend all of my time in other teachers' classrooms. I see how they teach for 40 weeks of the year. Ofsted spends one or possibly two hours in each of these classrooms. From this they make their judgments on teaching competence or otherwise. My observations reveal a picture of teachers who do care about what and how they teach. Many will approach me at the end of a lesson to say that they weren't happy with the way they taught that lesson and than discuss ways in which they could improve it. This seems to suggest to me that teachers, far from being "insular and defensive", are open to new ideas. Simon Midgley, 63 Bankside Lane, Bacup, Lancs OL13 8HP.

YOUR leader attributing continued failure of the education system to a segment of "incompetent" teachers merely serves to cloud the issues; attributing system failure to some unidentified group is akin to the thought processes of totalitarians rather than to exponents of the open society. There are three unverified assumptions that the perceived failure of the education system can be blamed on a group of under-performing teachers; that Ofsted is capable of identifying such teachers; that their substitution by Ofsted-approved teachers will improve matters. Judgments based on observation of lessons by teachers, administrators, inspectors and even pupils themselves are poor predictors of learning outcomes. The attempt to classify teachers into seven grades will be flawed. Pupils generally seem to learn best from teachers who are considered moderate and some even learn well from teachers rated poor. Critics too often rely on personal childish memories predating the development of their analytic faculties. Their world comprises absolutes, good teachers and bad teachers — get rid of the bad and the good remain; there you have it, all very simple and all reinforced by adolescent car-tainty. Playing musical chairs with teachers' jobs achieves nothing. David Griffiths, 12 Fortes House, Cameron Close, Brentwood CM14 5BS. I HAVE a simple question for the Chief Inspector of Schools. How does he propose to find 15,000 competent teachers to replace those he wants sacked? W Glynn Jones, 31 Blenheim Road, Bolton BL2 6EA.

Men and vanity

AS usual Francis Wheen (Wheen's World, April 10) does not allow the facts to stand in the way of a good story. I am not the author of the Conservative Central Office document about Labour's past standpoints on Anglo-American issues, though it does draw on a number of accurate facts set out in the 1992 Central Office publication, "Who's Left", which I compiled. It is amusing that Mr Wheen sees fit to dredge up information about my political activities as far back as the late 1970s, whilst hypocritically criticising the Conservative Party for setting out the political record of Tony Blair and his cronies over the last few years. (Dr) Julian Lewis, Deputy director, Conservative Department, 32 Smith Square, Westminster, London SW1P 3EH.

MY vanity was wounded by your recent remarks in the "vanity of art critics." Your Media diarist noted (April 8) that "Andrew Graham-Dixon, the Independent's art scribe and presenter of BBC2's History of British Art... urged on the Indy a Section 2 cover story involving a picture of himself and the question: 'Is this the new Kenneth Clark?'" What he failed to mention was that my suggestion was a spoof, and that in the above-mentioned photograph I happened to be sticking my tongue out and impersonating an 18th-century medieval gargoyle in the likeness of a baboon. I hope your correspondent gets a chance to watch programme three in A History of British Art. Its theme is irony. Andrew Graham-Dixon, Room E215, BBC Television Centre, Wood Lane, London W12.

LETTERS to the Editor may be faxed on 0171 337 4530 or sent by post to 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER, and by e-mail to letters@guardian.co.uk. Please include a full postal address and daytime telephone number, even in e-mailed letters. We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt of letters. We may edit them; shorter ones are more likely to appear.

That supermarket sweepstake

AS stakeholders, we should rejoice at Tesco's decision to invest £20m on "customer care" by employing customer assistants. Employees benefit from the extra £4,500 people from competition next time they seek a new post. Producers benefit from £20m additional purchasing power. May we hope that some supermarket petrol stations will now take courage and increase their customer care back to the level of the 1980s by employing petrol assistants so that we can get petrol and oil without getting our hands dirty; and even that bus companies will employ bus assistants (we could call them "conductors"), thus also benefiting stakeholders with an interest in less congested roads, quicker journeys, or less crime on buses. Pauline Williamson, 1 St Mary's Grove, London SW13 0JA.

Advice taken

THE independent evaluation of Citizens Advice Bureau employment advice that you report (Nearly 40 per cent of CAB advice on employment rights is 'wrong', April 5) is now more than a year old. Action to set new standards has already been taken and more is planned. It is a measure of our commitment to providing high-quality advice that we commissioned this research at all. Indeed, it would be interesting to see how solicitors would emerge from a similarly searching evaluation. Ann Abraham, Chief Executive, National Association of CABs, 115-123 Pentonville Road, London N1 8LZ.

Pope knows

RE your report on the founding of a private school in Furley (Catholic parents in Opus Dei sect to open school, April 11), Opus Dei is a prelatry of the Roman Catholic Church. Its head is a bishop, and reports to the Congregation of Bishops, under the Pope. Its founder has been beatified. If anything we are known for our loyalty to the Pope, and have met criticism for standing united with the hierarchy. Your use of the term "sect", which implies the opposite, is thus unacceptable. Andrew Scanes, Director, Opus Dei Information Office, 5 Orme Court, London W2 4RL.

A Country Diary

ROCKFIELD. The herd of whooper swans were grazing on a field just inland from this small east coast village in the Highlands. There were 57 adults but only seven juveniles, indicating a poor breeding season last year in their home ground of Iceland. The very first bird I looked at had rings on its legs — a yellow ring on one leg and a metal one on the other. Once in the past I have managed to read the numbers and letters on a yellow ring through a telescope but this bird was much too far away. I could have tried to get closer but the birds were wary and as this was likely to be their last feeding grounds before flying north I did not wish to chance disturbing them. However, as I was scanning the birds, I suddenly found that two of them had yellow neck rings and as these have larger numbers and letters the telescope might reveal some secrets. With the telescope on the window mount of the car I focused and found it fairly easy to read the numbers and let-

Fratricide among the Christians

AT the risk of scandalising (or boring to death) your readers with division among Christians, I must take exception to Tim Montgomerie's caricature of Christian socialism (Letters, April 10). He may see "clear Bible teaching" on every contentious moral issue — indeed the magazine of the Conservative Christian Fellowship has enough articles about homosexuality to produce emul even in Peter Tatchell — but others do not. The point he has missed is that Christian socialism is not a doctrinaire, fundamentalist corpus of beliefs, to be imposed in some nightmarish utopian future. The Labour Party is not a Christian Party nor should it be. If it is to be the People's Party it must seek to embrace those of all faiths and none at all. However, it is equally unacceptable to deny the right of any person of faith to seek inspiration or direc-

Fraticide among the Christians

tion from their religious convictions. Tony Blair should be congratulated for providing an ethical and intellectual underpinning of his personal political credo, which stands in sharp contrast to the weak and rudderless leadership the country is presently enduring. David Cairns, Co-ordinator, Christian Socialist Movement, 38 Old Queen Street, London SW1E 9JF.

Fraticide among the Christians

IN THE second century AD, St Justin Martyr wrote about Christians: "They marry as men do and beget children, but they do not practice abortion." How does Mr Blair square his Christian beliefs with his voting record concerning abortion? Ian Ellis, The Meadows, Flintshire CH6.

صدا من الاصل

See com

Comment Hugo Young

Jill Morro Un L



صحنات الاحول

Diary  
Matthew Norman

THE mystery about TAIM (Truth and Accuracy in the Media) — the Hollywood-based group whose newsletter and website invite subscribers to report journalists to a blacklist — deepens by the hour. Could this anonymous body be a front, we wonder, for the Church of Scientology? Last July, the Scientologists launched the Campaign for Public Reform of Media Abuses, waiting a full two months before starting the extremely different RACT (Fairness and Accuracy Campaign for Truth in the Media). Founded by the late L. Ron Hubbard (son of L. Mother Hubbard) the church famously hates media attention, and even Hollywood has major Hollywood news anchors, Tom Cruise, Demi Moore and John Travolta as members. On this circumstantial evidence, it looks a fair cop — but, at the Scientologyists' trial HQ (a mansion in East Grinstead), Rachel Orson denies it. Is she correct? Or are there Scientologist impersonators on the loose in California? We will endeavour to find out.

WHETHER I may be, I will be reporting myself to TAIM for the second time: first it was the Peter Robinson incident; now it's the price of Major, Major (Memories of an Older Brother), the new book of the month. Terry Major-Ball's classic work (out in paperback very soon) will be 26.99, an even better bargain than I suggested. Terry leaves for Australia on Saturday, for the Melbourne Flower Show, and we hope to have a farewell chat with him tomorrow. Until then, a short extract — the final lines of chapter one — must suffice. Soon after John comes PM, Terry pops in to 10 Downing Street one lunchtime and is invited to stay for a meal. "As we sat down — John, Norma and myself — I had to confess that I couldn't manage lunch," writes Terry, "because I had just bought a pie at Victoria Street. I had a good chat with them, however, and a very nice cup of tea."

THE march in protest against the Job Seeker's Allowance in central London on Tuesday, it seems a kind of classic of the genre. A handful of hooded militants raced dramatically into the wrong building (the old Department of Employment HQ at Caxton House, abandoned by ministers after the merger with the Employment Service and scattered leaflets at the bemused staff of a private company. While these brave souls rushed upstairs to confront ministers (on what would have been the wrong floor, anyway, had the ministers been there), supporters outside the building chanted slogans aimed at Michael Howard. Whatever we may think of Mr Howard, and there are arguments to be made either way, he indisputably ceased to be employment minister in 1990.

FOR independent journalists sacked by Mirror Group Newspapers in recent months comes cheering news of a former colleague. A financial news service reports that, on a recent morning, thanks to the power of the share option, David Montgomery sold on 500,000 MGN shares for an instant profit of £780,000. Whether because of such financial acumen or for the subtlety of his business philosophy, Monty has also been made a Companion of the Institute of Management. It is richly deserved.

REPORTS that Labour is preparing a more lenient, Murdoch-friendly approach to cross-media ownership have come as no surprise to West Highland terrace Stephen. Europe's top-ranked casino southsayer (despite challenges from imposters Mystic Nutt and the astrologer Jack Russell Grant) forecast such a move in his New Year predictions. He forecast that New Labour would announce an annual subsidy of £1.6 billion to News International at the party conference. It's come a little early and the minor detail is a shade different, but even so... that Howard is quite uncanny.



WHILE ANSWERING QUESTIONERS WOULD ALREADY KNOW HIS ANSWERS.

# See Major's friends come out to play

Commentary  
Hugo Young

THE Conservatives are not dead. In fact, they're looking up. A year ago, something cataclysmic seemed about to happen. The great party was becoming anathema not only to its enemies but to its friends. It almost didn't have any friends. The Daily Mail was writing it out of the script. Diester, even, melted down, beckoned. It still does. The by-election today will be bad. The polling figures continue to show a nation-wide Tory deficit of 30 per cent. But the household gods turn out not to have lost their power. The evidence is impressive. So is the reason for it.

Tory money is coming home. And the allies are returning to the party. The columns of the press. The 36th successive by-election defeat will mark a particularly vicious Labour bite into the heartland. Nevertheless, important people with a reluctance to believe like lemmings, begin to revert to type. They haven't given up. Their attitude in the Conservative interest tells us as much about the state of politics as that which chortled phenomenon, the voters' desertion. The message is instructive about the skin-deep meaning of Tory Blair.

Last month, the Tories announced that in a year they'd taken aim at the box office. For an all-time flop, never before so consistently rejected by the people, this was an extraordinary achievement. Philip Harris, campaign manager twice over, has served a party treasurer whose arrangements business can't resist. Now another army, of Peter Gummera and Tim Bells and British Airways and Dixons and shiny mega-beneficiaries of Thatcherism, is moving into the lists. One thing they won't be short of at the election is cash. Another is commitment, of people whom the Labour Party presents as its new friends but who, in truth, detest the imminent prospect of a Blair victory almost as much as they detest the removal of one of Prime Minister Kinnock.

One can, moreover, see their point. Though their chances of success are slim, they're not being perverse. The politics of class and money have not evaporated under Blair's ministrations. True, he is tolerated by the business world. He spends a lot of time showing he understands them. And the City can see as well as anyone the way the wind is blowing and needs to prepare accordingly. These people, after all, will have to live with Mr Blair. But the notion that they might in any way desire him is an illusion, part of his smooth ascent into seemingly universal approbation. What it really proves is how much this sleight-of-mind is Blair's own work.

Many businessmen disdain all politicians, and the competitive business culture is unlikely to make a nature hero out of John Major, who shows many regrettable marks of a wimpish failure. But in their world, Major has delivered. The absence of the fast-food factor doesn't apply to them. A widespread sense of personal insecurity may blight the political pay-off which ministers think they deserve for their brilliant record of low inflation and steady export-led growth. But it is perfectly acceptable to the employing classes.

Against it stands a prospect of Labour that no cold-eyed capitalist could conceivably welcome: higher social costs, more regulation, greater trade-union power, and (how all else) bigger personal taxes on the high-paid. The only way to get out of this is by the speculative upside of better training and a saner attitude to Europe — the latter itself flawed by the social chapter and all that.

In short, business has good reason to have developed a politics of conviction. Its support is burgeoning not from lip duty but the sense that it is a lot to lose. It has a spokesman in government whose rabid belief exceeds its own, namely Michael Heseltine. Heseltine's discourse, however, rests on more than ductal routine. He believes that Blair is not just an opponent but a con-man. He speaks with starting, uninvited disgust about the manifest insincerity of this man's Christian hypocrisy. He does not mention the unconstructed rubble of old socialists behind him.

One works hard to recall that Heseltine was once a man of the Tory left. This badge probably renders his message more potent among the pragmatic business people whose sympathy it pleases Blair to think he has secured. But Blair has done no such thing, and as election day draws closer, Heseltine's voice is the one to remind business where self-interest lies.

Meatmen is still possible. The pot deficit has never been so robust, and holds out the prospect that the Tories will not rise higher than the mid-30s. They've stood around 26 per cent for most months since if that's how they stay, they're fished. Surely they will add 5 or 6 per cent. But even then they'll lose, as many MPs have already decided. The coming Tory defeat is the common talk in

the political class that the attitude of the business class seems a gross paradox. Alternative conclusions suggest themselves.

But there's another, more obvious explanation. It is what ministers are saying, and is underlined by the one polling detail that gives comfort to the Tories, which is a sizeable fall in the number of voters who charge them with economic incompetence. Other things yes, the economy not quite so much. This is what the business world will fight for. Don't let Labour ruin it. There's a plausible case that, though the voters are thinking about other things like mistrust and insecurity and the decline of public services, it also tells you why the Tory press, after four years spent trying to destroy Major, will make a fight of it on his behalf. In the end, Labour's world has rather little to offer them. Major's conviction that he's been right about the economy, with figures to prove it, provides a platform from which they can come out swinging the old punches. However bad South Staffs looks tonight, it is worth remembering that they will.

So many people now believe that the wrong men were convicted that one MP recently remarked that it would be a surprise to find someone who still thinks they are guilty. Yet the stumbling block is the tremendous reluctance within the Government to face the fact that the case to return to the Court of Appeal where the evidence can be debated in public. A few weeks ago I, Anne Whelan and other members of the campaign sat in the House of Commons listening to the first-ever parliamentary debate on the case. We listened in dismay to a speech by the Home Office representative, Timothy Kirkhope, which indicated that the Home Office has not moved on its attitude to the case since the 1988-89 case. Part of the Home Office's reason for refusing to allow the case to return to the Court of Appeal is that the evidence of a crucial prosecution witness proved at the Court of Appeal to be a pathological liar.

Yet the people paying the price are the wrongly imprisoned men and their families whose lives have been shattered by this experience. Pat Molloy died in prison in 1981; Michael Hickey has now spent half of his young life in prison; Vincent Hickey's despair at the recent Commons statement led him to attempt suicide. The waste of life this injustice has caused compounds the original tragedy of the death of Carl Bridgewater, whose family must relive the pain of his death every time they read the newspaper. No one can compensate those involved for the suffering caused, and no one can give the Bridgewater Four back the 18 years they have lost. But why not give justice the chance to begin the long process of rehabilitation. The case will not go away, and if ministers decline to refer it, it will be one of the reasons to fall on the back of the criminal cases review authority when eventually it is set up.

Those of us campaigning for them are confident that they will walk out of the front door of the Court of Appeal with their convictions quashed; what we want to know is when. The efficiency of the judicial system has been debated at great length recently. Yet villains walk free while the innocent are in the courts convicted. While it is clear that Michael Howard is determined to do something about the former, he seems reluctant to face up to the embarrassment of the latter, particularly in the case of the Bridgewater Four.

While they are denied a return to the Court of Appeal, Michael Howard's commitment to justice is in question. He has not yet made a final decision about the case, so there is still a chance that he will equal the courage of the men and their families and let the case be heard in open court.

Jill Morrell argues that the continued imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four is a grave ongoing injustice which Michael Howard must have the courage to quash

# Untrue confessions

LAST NIGHT'S Rough Justice programme called the efficiency of our judicial system to account yet again with its examination of the case of the four men imprisoned since 1979 for the murder of the young newspaper boy Carl Bridgewater.

During their 18 years in prison, new evidence has proved these men innocent over and over again. Yet the Home Office seems determined to uphold these convictions in the face of all the facts. The irony for the men and their families, and for those campaigning for them, is that the longer the case drags on, the more embarrassing it will be for the Government when it is eventually referred back to the Court of Appeal, yet the more embarrassing it becomes, the harder it is to persuade them to do so.

When the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six cases collapsed, we were assured that lessons had been learned and there would be no repetition of such scandals. Yet this miscarriage of justice, the last of the notorious injustices cases of the 1970s, features the same endless secret police investigations that lead nowhere and the same revelations of crucial information years after it should have been disclosed to the defence at the original trial. Five years after the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice was set up, there is still no sign of the establishment of the independent review authority legislated for last year. Yet if ever there was a case that ought to be dealt with by the review authority, the Bridgewater case is it.

In September 1978, 18-year-old Carl Bridgewater was found brutally murdered at a farmhouse in Staffordshire after he interrupted the party. Carl had been shot once at close range through the head and was found sitting on the farmhouse sofa in a pool of blood, his newspaper bag still slung over his shoulder. The absence of any sign of a struggle made the murder seem even more brutal. In a blaze of publicity the police launched a massive hunt for the killer, when four men were found guilty of Carl's murder the following year. There was widespread satisfaction that justice had been done. The convicted men, Vincent Hickey, Michael Hickey, James Robinson and Pat Molloy, were sent to prison for life.

I remember the Carl Bridgewater story as one of those horrific events that lodge in one's mind, a sharp reminder of how vulnerable we are, how quickly tragedy can strike and transform ordinary, everyday lives into a nightmare of unreality and grief.

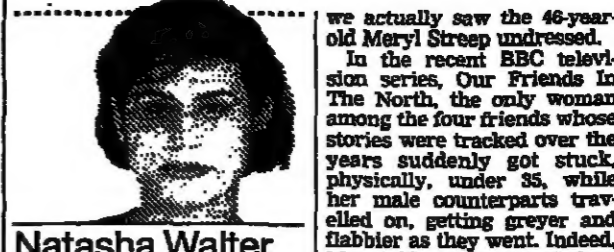
Years later, Paul Foot's book Murder at the Farm persuaded me that the wrong men had been convicted. The case against the four men rested on a written confession beaten out of Pat Molloy implicating the other three. It also relied heavily on incriminating evidence relating to the four were said to have made to prisoners or other witnesses, many of whom stood to gain by what they said in court. Without this prosecution case was

very weak — there was no forensic evidence, no fingerprints, no murder weapon or stolen property which linked the men to the crime. Given the extremely powerful effect of Molloy's confession, it's perhaps understandable how the jury came to convict them. Since then, however, the validity of Molloy's confession has been demolished and most of the verbal evidence disproved or discredited.

At the time of reading Paul Foot's book I was involved in a campaign to try to secure the release of my former boyfriend, John McCarthy, who had been kidnapped in Lebanon. Although John's circumstances and that of the "Bridgewater Four", as they had become known, were completely different, all were victims of wrongful imprisonment. All had found themselves in a nightmare of circumstances from which there seemed no way out. I identified with the struggle of Anne Whelan, the mother of Michael Hickey, who had been fighting for 10 years just to persuade people to listen to her. Our campaigns had come up against the same walls of official indifference. But whereas my own campaign could call on our own government to help John, the Bridgewater Four had been found guilty in a British court and they had the extra weight of their own government against them.

It is hard to imagine the deep sense of isolation they must feel. The only way Michael Hickey, the youngest of the four, could make his voice heard was to mount a

# Bar-stool wisdom on a royal dilemma



CERTAIN newspapers have been treating the changing appearance of Princess Diana's thighs with the kind of bogged concentration more understandable given to a change of government. The story began when the People made a front-page scoop out of blurry photographs showing her in short shorts, in which her thighs looked rather dimpled. The horror that these pictures engendered was something like the impact of 18th-century portraits with death's head lurking in the corner: even beautiful princesses get old; even Diana is mortal.

As the Mail put it, "there is justice after all — age comes to everyone. But their horror turned ageing into something almost pathological. 'Poison deposits, like slime at the bottom of the river' is how the Express described the cellulite, or 'toxic sludge'. 'Only when the body is purged of these poisons will cellulite begin to disappear', said the Mail. Self-flagellation was advised: heavy-duty aerobic exercise and no fat at all. When Diana appeared the next day in an ankle-length coat, "she was clearly deeply embarrassed", decided the Sun, while the Mirror had an exclusive leak from the princess herself — the dimples were not cellulite but marks from sitting on a bar-stool.

That this constitutes a major news story for half the British press demonstrates a profound distaste for ageing female flesh that is displayed throughout the media. Their aversion to the signs of age in women has not disappeared even now, 25 years after the outbreak of second-wave feminism. When glossy magazines publish photographs of women over 30, lines and marks are still routinely brushed out. Imagine the response if photographs of black people were routinely lightened; yet a dislike of women's ageing bodies is still so endemic that few people question the process.

Magazine fashion stories are ever more the playground of thy, teenage girls; and female actresses who have gone beyond a peach-like, nubile physical moment are routinely replaced by body-doubles, unlike their male counterparts. So in the story of love between the over-40s, The Bridges of Madison County, it was assumed that the 55-year-old Clint Eastwood could make our hearts beat faster, but a question mark hung over whether

we actually saw the 46-year-old Meryl Streep undressed. In the recent BBC television series, Our Friends in the North, the only woman among the four friends whose stories were tracked over the years suddenly got struck, physically, under 35, while her male counterparts travelled on, getting greyer and flabbier as they went. Indeed, Mary (Gina McKee) ended up looking rather younger than her own son.

In their continuing inability to react normally to women's increasing years, the media are now oddly out of step with the experiences of ordinary women, who no longer tend to find cellulite a crisis that threatens their very selfhood. In one recent survey carried out by Good Housekeeping magazine, 77 per cent of women said they were happy with the way they looked. Those aged 45 to 54 were the happiest of all, while 85 per cent of women felt the media put too much emphasis on looking young.

And when women do gain real power in any sphere, they can easily resist the traditional aversion to female ageing. Most older women in the public eye, from Kate Adlie to Margaret Thatcher to Anita Roddick, never have to endure the vile carping that Diana receives. Their power is real and solid, a cultural or political or economic force that bears no relation to their appearance, and is therefore unimpacted by the marks of time on their skin.

SIMILARLY, Emma Thompson can play the 19-year-old heroine of Sense and Sensibility at the age of 36 because she is not only an acclaimed actress, but also wrote the script, and so has a powerful stake in the creation of the film. Anna Ford, Joan Bakewell and Joanna Lumley remain on television into their 50s because of the respect given to their work; the first generation of women to keep their power on television as they age.

But the tabloids can make a story out of Diana's thigh cellulite, unlike such women, her power rests upon her husband and her beauty. Her desire for an ambassadorial role seems to have come to nothing, and she is losing her place in the royal family. As a traditionally feminine, dependent woman, she is still vulnerable to such criticism. It is only when women free themselves from such dependency that they are able to present their ageing on their own terms.

The moral of the story is that most women have already learnt the best lesson: power is not through posing for cameras in bikinis or through the power of one's husband. If Diana found some real work and a respected role for herself, her ankle-length coat would be read less as a sign of embarrassment and more as a normal desire for warmth.

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Jill Morrell is the author of The Wrong Man (Bridgewater Four Support Group)

Richard Condon

# Un-American activity

**B**ACK IN the late 1960s, Richard Condon's mid-life crisis took tangible form as three duodenal ulcers. At that time Condon, who has died aged 81, was a successful Hollywood publicist. His wife told him that either he did something else or he would chew up his entire intestinal tract. So, in 1958, his first novel, *The Oldest Confession*, was published. The paperback rights went within a fortnight and the film rights within a month. The ensuing film, *The Happy Thieves* with Rita Hayworth and Rex Harrison, was dreadful. By then it didn't matter. Condon's second novel, *The Manchurian Candidate*, published in 1959, imbued the writer with a cult status that persisted through his subsequent career.

Condon produced 24 successful novels in the years that followed, including *An Infinity of Mirrors* (1964), *Mile High* (1968) and *Winter Kills* in 1974; but it was only in the early eighties, with the darkly funny mafia novel — and movie — with Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner and Anjelica Huston — *Prizzi's Honor* (1984) and *Winter Kills* (1984) that Condon's organisation finally takes the White House) that the *Candidate's* long shadow was lifted. *The Manchurian Candidate* was a child of McCarthyism

and the Cold War. It dealt with Raymond Shaw, an American prisoner-of-war brainwashed in Korea, who returns to the United States primed for a political assassination. At the time Condon wrote it, the red-baiting senator from Wisconsin, Joseph McCarthy, had just died and his legacy was an open wound on the American body politic and a presence in his mind.

By 1982, the novel had become a John Frankenheimer-directed film with Laurence Harvey, Angela Lansbury and Frank Sinatra. It was, Condon observed later, the "sweetest translation" ever made between one of his books and the screen.

*The Manchurian Candidate* novel, born of fifties' preoccupations, was refracted through the cup into sixties-film images, witty, scaring, and, as it turned out with JFK's assassination in 1963, coldly prophetic. Where there had been a tortured Laurence Harvey on screen, there was Lee Harvey Oswald — "I'm just a Patsy" — in Dallas.

Apart from 18 months in Los Angeles, Condon spent the first 43 years of his life in his native New York. He grew up in Washington Heights, across the East River from Manhattan. The heights then was a melting pot for Germans, Italians and the Irish. His geographical situation paralleled Condon's development as a

writer, an amused, acerbic realist watching the great powers of society at work, but from a distance.

The meeting point between politics, crime and money was an abiding obsession. He saw the political spectacle of American life, he told me in the late eighties, as an endless series of beautifully-decorated river barges. "Around the bend comes the Joe McCarthy barge. Everybody is interested, they applaud, and it slips out of sight downstream. Or you get the Iran-Contra

the nineties, with *The Final Addiction*, featuring a character with some faint resemblance to Dan Quayle, in 1991 and *Prizzi's Money* in 1993. Condon did not boast any specialist knowledge of the Mafia; anyone who was in American show-business, he believed, would make contacts of a sort. And then there was his experience of New Yorkers during his first four decades.

There was an awful lot of larceny there, he thought. They were people who talked fast, moved fast, thought in terms of sharp angles, wasted fast, and where they went the country followed. Just as the Mafia was another part of the spectacle, in the barges with politicians, legitimate businessmen and television anchormen.

Times had changed since the days of his youth and Tammany Hall, cigar-chewing politicians, legitimate businessmen and television anchormen.

Richard Condon is survived by his wife and two daughters.



Richard Condon... 'I'm for home and mother. I've just been disillusioned'

Hugh Falkus

# A river runs through it

**O**NE OF my treasured memories of Hugh Falkus, who has died aged 78, is of him standing on the River Eak during the making of his film, *Sabno The Leaper*, for the BBC's Natural History Unit.

Hugh, then aged 60, was demonstrating why falling into deep water, fully clothed and weighed down with high boots, should hold no terrors. This did he fling himself into the icy torrent and, to the crew's astonishment, show how to survive. Several viewers subsequently claimed that the lesson saved their lives.

Although he was an outstanding fisherman, and author of definitive works such as *Salmon Fishing and Trout Fishing*, it was as a wildlife broadcaster and filmmaker that I came to know Hugh Falkus. His involvement with the Natural History Unit in Bristol arose out of his friendship with Niko Tinbergen, professor of animal behaviour at Oxford, who was studying gulls close to where Hugh had his home in the Eak valley.

Hugh, who had formed his own wildlife film company after the second world war, was the first to make television programmes. Although a Nobel prizewinner and fellow of the Royal Society, Tinbergen was an amateur when it came to photography, and discovered in Hugh a skilled communicator who could craft stories out of his film.

In the early 1960s, he made *The Sign Readers* and *The Gull Watchers*. The mixture of simply-observed behaviour and lucid storylines spoken by Hugh was fresh and inspiring. But the film which marked the apogee of his partnership with Tinbergen was *Signals For Survival*, about the behaviour and social structure in a ravenous, noisy cresser black-backed gull.

The editor knew that viewers might find it difficult to watch 50 minutes of gull behaviour, but, such was the faith in Hugh's talent to craft

a structure to the storyline, that the project went ahead. When broadcast in December 1969, as part of the BBC's new series, *The World About Us*, it was a triumph. It was recognised as a masterly exposition on animal communication through the analysis of the postures and voice of one kind of bird, and won the Prix Italia and a Blue Riband Award at the American Film Festival. Hugh refused to pick up the prize because "he couldn't stand bullshit" — yet he was enormously pleased that it beat an Apollo moon-landing documentary.

Hugh then made a string of wildlife films, including *The Riddle Of The Rock*, *The*

*Beachcombers* and the autobiographical *Self-Portrait Of A Happy Man*. He also became the voice of the Franchise Divers when he rewrote and narrated 40 episodes of *The Undersea World Of Jacques Cousteau*. A brief association with Oxford Scientific Films resulted in *The Tender Trap*, an internationally-acclaimed look at carnivorous plants.

To observe Hugh working on his scripts, soft pencil and rubber always with him, searching for the precise combination of words that would clinch a story, was inspirational. "My dear Johnny," he would say, "there are three rules to script-writing: use simple words, write with rhythm and add a touch of alliteration."

He was born south-west of London and bright up on the Essex Maras and in Devon. As a Spitfire pilot during the second world war, his squadron was on scrambled so early that he flew in his pyjamas, shot down two German bombers over France, went for a third, and was shot down himself. Thanks to his non-military dress, he eventually faced Gestapo firing squad on riverbank and, in defiance turned to watch a trout rise for flies. His captors hesitated — and he was rescued by a passing senior German air officer. His adventures continued as prisoner-of-war, tunnel-digger, escapee, sailor, and, feature-film director, portman and artist.

Hugh wrote an narrated series of my *Wor About Us* tales from the stretchers of *Day Of The Sea*, and in 1976 I worked closely with him on *The Killers Trade*, which showed pretors in action and explored the relationship between, killing for food, murder warfare. Hugh had killed a man, but he was not interested in fighting, and felt this could pronounce with authority on the subject.

I filmed him against the backdrop of hills at surrounded his home Crags Cottage. It was a wonderful piece about the catastrophic nature of modern warfare. Afterwards, he said: "I god Johnny, that'll give 'something to think about. And it did. After transmission I got a letter from the stretchers of TV Centre instructing me to wipe the tape — much to the Hugh's amusement."

Hugh hated authority and did not suffer fools at a but, despite his robust opinions, he was a man of artistic integrity, moral courage and intellectual honesty.

**John Sparks**  
Hugh Edward Lance Falkus, writer and naturalist, born May 15, 1917; died March 30, 1996



Best friends... Falkus with his dog, Prince

Jean Burroughs

# Partner in peace

**J**EAN Burroughs, who has died aged 65, was the founder of Education Partners Overseas, a pioneer in international peace, justice and racial equality.

Eight years ago, at an age when many people think of slowing down, she pitched enthusiastically into a campaign to help teachers and young people to participate in reciprocal, long-lasting education partnerships and exchanges between maintained schools and colleges in the UK and their counterparts in Africa and Asia.

Undeterred by the prevailing orthodoxy of economic self-interest, she challenged educationalists wherever she went in Britain, Africa and Asia to take the lessons of the Brazil report on north-south inter-dependence seriously.

She won countless friends by her blend of humour, reason and passion, ability and energy. In 1984, she was developing a national and international network, raising funds for teacher study visits, producing a series of high quality publications and always insisting that partnerships must be at the heart of the curriculum. She took particular pride in setting up an autonomous Education Partners Overseas in Tanzania with the local ministry of education and culture.

Burroughs was born in Chiswick, west London, where her family had lived for three generations. Three aunts, from whom she inherited her dynamism and determination, had been suffragettes. As a young woman, she was selected for county hockey and cricket teams.

Later, she developed a passion for camping, travel and for mechanised transport, beginning modestly with a scooter, then motor bike, followed by a succession of cars, the speedier the better. At one point, she nearly decided to go on the stage. Instead, she trained at Goldsmith's College, London, as a teacher.

She reached the height of her career in the 1960s as founder head of Fulham Cross girls' comprehensive school in west London. The start was inauspicious following a diffi-

cult amalgamation with low morale amongst pupils and disaffection amongst staff. But with persistence, Burroughs raised levels of expectation, improved examination results, broadened the curriculum, developed community relations — and left the school over-subscribed. A new technology wing was evidence of her commitment to equal opportunities and her educational vision.

She was dedicated to the rights of young people and her crowning achievement was to ensure that her work will continue to benefit future generations. In preparation for her intended retirement, she ensured a continuing pivotal role for Education Partners Overseas by negotiating grant aid from the Overseas Development Administration, and a merger from May 1 1996 with the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges.

**Peter Mann**  
Jean Burroughs, educationist, born January 31, 1931; died February 21, 1996

Alan Iliffe

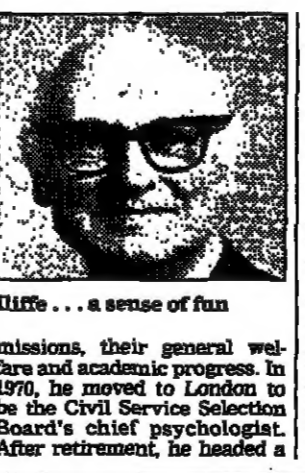
# Heart of the grey matter

**A**LAN ILIFFE, who has died aged 77, was a distinguished psychologist, a brilliant teacher — at Keele University — and a founder of the Society for Research into Higher Education.

By 1940, he had joined the army straight from school, and ended up on the beach at Dunkirk. Later, he won a first-class degree at Reading University via a fast-track, accelerated programme. He was recruited to the newly-founded university college at Keele. By 1954, he had become senior tutor, and was invited to join the university staff.

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Iliffe... a sense of fun

missions, their general welfare and academic progress. In 1970, he moved to London to be the Civil Service Selection Board's chief psychologist. After retirement, he headed a

Birthdays

Karen Briggs, judo champion, 33; Sir Raymond Carr, Spanish historian, 77; Gertrude de Peyer, clarinetist, 70; Clive Exton, scriptwriter, 66; James Ferman, secretary, British Board of Film Classification, 66; Ronald Fraser, actor, 66; Jill Gascoigne, actress, 59; Georgina Godley, fashion designer, 41; Joel Grey, actor, 64; Roger Knight, deputy director, National Maritime Museum, 52; Derek Martin, actor, 63; Dame Avril Poole, former chief nursing officer, Department of Health, 62; Leo C. Rosten, political scientist, creator of Hyman Kaplan, 88; Lisa Stansfield, singer, 30; Richard Watwright, former Liberal MP, 78.

Death Notices

**CLAREM**, Gordon wife and broadcaster, possibly at home on April 8th, aged 81. Death followed a long illness. Family: Jonathan, Penny, Elizabeth and Eleanor, son of Annie, brother of Peter, grandfather of Clare. Burial: St. Andrew's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW11 1JH. Inquiries: Mrs. G. Clarendon, 11 Lyndhurst Gardens, London NW11 1JH.

**MACDONALD**, Norrie (Mrs) on 8th April 1996 after a long illness with grace and courage. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her, especially her children and her adored granddaughter Ella. Her memory will be treasured always. Funeral to be held at St. Andrew's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW11 1JH at 11.30am on Monday, April 15th at 11.30am. Donations to Friends of St. Andrew's Church, Finchley Rd, London NW11 1JH. Tel 0203 625 5274.

**THOMAS**, David, April 8th 1996. Sudden at Arriva Park Hospital aged 84 years. Beloved husband of Marion, father of Jane, Victoria and daughter-in-law Elizabeth. Services at West Kirby Methodist Church, West Kirby, Merseyside on Monday, April 15th at 11.30am. Donations to Friends of West Kirby Methodist Church, West Kirby, Merseyside. Tel 0151 625 5274.

Marriages

**TO ALL** in the Guardian Advertising Department, please send your notices to: 11, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel 0171 733 4139. Fax 0171 733 4139.

Jackdaw

**Socks did it**  
THANK YOU very much. Hmm, this is kind of interesting. These don't appear to be my notes. Do you have the folder I gave you? Well, where did this stuff come from? Nobody leaves stuff like this just lying around. Maybe I'll just hang on to these. OK, here we go.

Good evening Mr President. Mrs Clinton, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, radio and TV scum... You know, I think it would be fair to say that back when the Clintons took office, if we had placed them all in a line-up — well, not a line-up — if we were to have speculated on

which members of the First Family would be the first to be indicted — I mean to have received a subpoena, everybody in this room would have picked Roger. I mean: been there, done that. Well, the last three years, Socks the cat has been in more jams than Roger. Roger has been a saint. The cat has peed on national treasures. Roger hasn't. Socks has thrown up on the White House. Roger hasn't. Socks has got his girl-friend pregnant and — oh, no, that was Roger.

And as you know, nearly every incident in the news of the First Family has been made worse by each and every person in this room, the radio and TV correspondents... My point is, there is an innocent event made sinister by some creep in the media. Although, in some cases, the Clintons have not exactly helped themselves. Imagine if, back in 1979, Mrs Clinton had not said to Mr Clinton, "Honey, Jim and Susan are here and they've got this riverfront land for some great vacation homes,

and maybe we can make some serious money." And he said, "God, I love this Reaganomics... One of the things it seems to me that the media ought to think about in the coming months, particularly in this election year, is the sensibilities of the people who you cover, the way you cover them, and your treatment of them as individuals.

For, if nothing else, they are all good and decent people who, for whatever reasons, have chosen to devote the bulk of their adult lives to public service. People who possess a passion for ideas and ideals to which they have committed extraordinary energy. It is almost always irrelevant and short-sighted to seize only on the unfortunate human imperfections of people who, frankly, have demonstrated an often puzzling willingness to endure great sacrifice both personally and professionally at what they see as a noble summons to serve the greater good. More often than not, that is exactly the case.

You folks focus on each mis-step, every mis-spoken word, each testy outburst they do not deserve some degree of respect, to be treated with the dignity that at least acknowledges the man or woman they believe they are conducting? Shouldn't we be willing to give them some benefit of the doubt?

I don't think so. Except from a speech given by US radio talkshow host Dr. Dinus to the US Radio and Television Correspondents annual dinner, reprinted in the New York Observer. The audience included the Clintons.

**Look up**  
TODAY'S abduction believers have grown up in the context of the myth of extraterrestrial visitation. Where they differ from the rest of us is that they take that myth for granted. Whereas you and I recognise it as myth and nothing more. Of all the myths we have created, that of visitation by other-worldly beings is the oldest and most enduring. Without divine beings descended from the

heavens, most religious belief-systems would lack the authority for their teachings, and without less kindly entities rising from the depths below, they would lack a bogeyman to soothe the neuroses of their teaching.

The sub-myth of alien abduction, whether seen as benign or malevolent, is a natural development of the basic myth... It is a magnificent testimony to humanity's inventive powers. If the abduction myth has taken so firm a hold, it is because it is rich in elements to which we can profoundly respond.

Invention, however, it manifestly is. Most of Meurgers's time is spent showing how the current abduction belief was prefigured, in detail, by fiction writers from the 17th century to the present. And don't let's have any nonsense about these authors unwittingly arising deep spiritual truths, these were hard-headed professional writers, who knew very well what they were up to, what they were making up to entertain their readers.

**Down the hatch**  
MR HOWARD PAUL, the well-known entertainer, has just brought out a little book, entitled *Dinners With Celebrities*, in which musicians play no inconsiderable part. When Mr Howard Paul dined with the late Prince Napoleon, Rossini was the party, and the exploits of the Swan of Pesaro as a trencherman are most carefully recorded in the following passage: "The spaghetti was the finest I ever remember to have tasted, and small wonder that Rossini enjoyed two helpings. I observed that he ate sparingly up to this course, refusing the *tourne-dos*, passing the *potage*, and picking lightly the breast of a woodcock. He was evidently reserving his grand coup for the Italian dish, which he demolished with gusto. The old metodist never forgot his early taste, and macaroni, polenta, ravioli, spaghetti, and vermicelli were invariably to be found on the table of his villa at Passy." In another chapter we glean the momentous information that Rossini — in his later years, at any rate — rarely ate any breakfast. As for Wagner, he dispatched his meals with the velocity of a Flying Dutchman: "I observed that he ate exceedingly fast. It was like posting letters. He placed his food in his mouth, and down it went while he

talked. If he had been reared in the United States of America he could not have piled his knife and fork with greater clarity."

*The Musical Times* looks back to its edition of April, 1896.

**headline**  
I HAD been using Natural Ice Medicated Lip Balm. After a few months of social lip-balming, I found that my indiscriminate use of Natural Ice was not enough. I found that I could get more bang for my buck by using Mentholatum directly. On the lips, under the nostrils, then eventually... yes... up the nose. More lip balm confessions from Lip Balm Anonymous on the Internet (<http://users.aol.com/LipBalmA/>).

Jackdaw wants your jewels. E-mail [jackdaw@guardian.co.uk](mailto:jackdaw@guardian.co.uk) fax 0171-733 4366; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 119 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

**Dan Glaister**

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could block  
30m Lonr  
merger deal

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Taxpayers face £50m bill

### High Court move threatens TECs

Simon Bewis and Chris Barrie

**T**AXPAYERS could end up paying an estimated \$50 million back to the Government's Training and Enterprise Councils if the Inland Revenue loses an intense legal battle which reaches the High Court next month.

The High Court finds they are charities they will be eligible for multi-million pound tax refunds.

When TECs were created in the late 1980s, the Government received legal advice that the councils were not and could never be charities.

The Inland Revenue last night said that it was pursuing the case. A spokeswoman said: "We don't agree with the Special Commissioners' findings. We believe they were wrong in law."

The Department for Education and Employment said that it was considering the implications for TECs.

### Notebook

## Enterprise and charity don't mix



Edited by Patrick Donovan

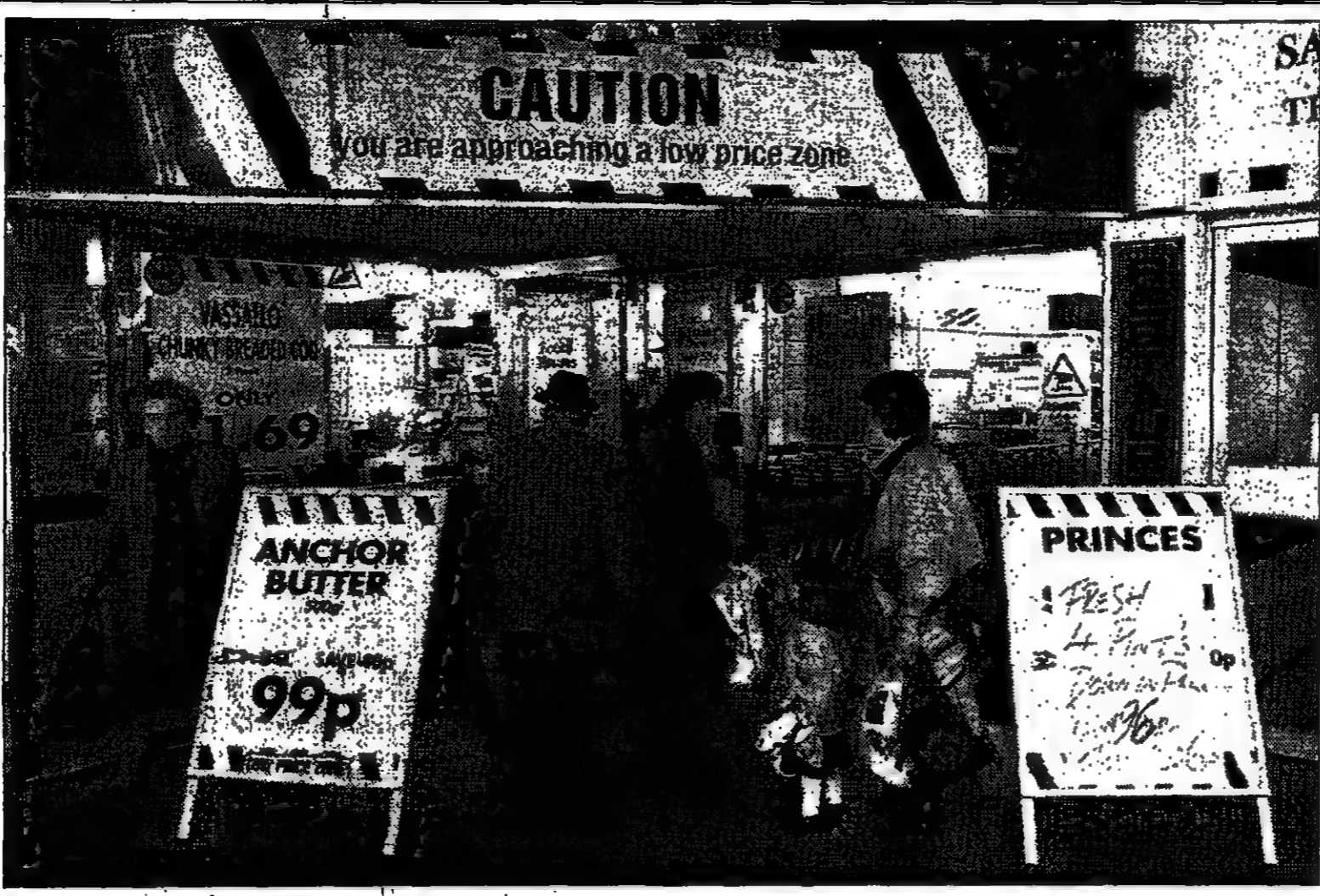
**T**HE Oldham Training and Enterprise Council can have had no idea what a can of worms it was opening when it hit on the apparently ingenious idea of applying for charitable status.

Conversely, the mark continues to suffer from interest rate blues with the market firmly convinced that a further cut could come as early as next week's key Bundesbank meeting.

## Scots enjoy best quality of life

Sarah Ryle and Tony Heath

**P**EOPLE in Scotland enjoy the best quality of life in Britain, according to a survey published today which shows that the cost of living across the country is rising at its slowest rate for three years.



Bargain prices... Marthyr Tydfil shoppers live in the UK's cheapest town

Nationwide, cheaper mortgages offered by lenders battling for market share helped slow the rise in day-to-day expenditure to an annual rate of 2.1 per cent, compared with 5.3 per cent at the last count in August, Reward says.

The move is a clear indication that elements of the business community are alarmed at the headway Labour has been making in the traditional Conservative heartlands of the City and commerce.

Business backers of the Labour Party were dismissive of the propaganda effort. Christopher Haskins, chairman of Northern Foods, said: "There was a similar effort four years ago, which may have been successful at the time, but people will remember what was said, and people

will draw their own conclusions for 1996/97."

Mr Haskins was referring to an initiative in March 1992 when 40 directors led by Dixons' Sir Stanley Kahn (a supporter of the Labour campaign) and Lord Sheppard, then head of Grand Metropolitan, urged support for the Conservatives at the General Election in a letter to the Times.

## EC could block £430m Lonrho merger deal

Ian King in London and Julia Wolf in Brussels

**E**U COMPETITION authorities are set to block or demand changes to the proposed £430 million merger of Lonrho's platinum interests with those of South African mining group Gencor, according to sources in Brussels.

Another leading opponent of the proposed merger is Lonrho's founder and former chairman Tiny Rowland, who has campaigned vigorously against the merger since it was announced in November.

## Bell and bosses toll Tony virtues

Liam Buckingham

**F**EAR that the Labour Party is successfully demolishing its traditional demagoguery among business leaders yesterday prompted a group of industrialists to splash out \$300,000 on a brochure extolling the virtues of the Government's economic policies.

The booklet, backed by a dozen businessmen including Lord Hanson, Sir David Lees, the chairman of GKN, and the British Airways' boss, Sir Colin Marshall, refrains from explicit endorsement of the Conservative Party.

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TOURIST RATES — BOTH COUNTRIES

Australia 1,855.00	France 7.51	Italy 2,280	Singapore 2.08
Austria 15.45	Germany 2,125.00	Malta 0.54	South Africa 5.14
Belgium 45.40	Greece 31.00	Netherlands 2,475.00	Spain 195.00
Canada 2,015.00	Hong Kong 11.58	Norway 5.82	Sweden 10.10
Cyprus 0.70	India 32.00	Portugal 225.00	Switzerland 1,780
Denmark 8.55	Israel 4.78	Saudi Arabia 2.67	Turkey 99.00
Finland 7.57			USA 1,480.00

## Obscure newcomer joins America's corporate pay caravan

Mark Tran in New York

**T**HE most richly rewarded executive in America last year did not come from Disney or any of the high-flying technology companies, but from Green Tree Financial, an obscure company in Minnesota that lends money to buy mobile homes.

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## Barings bondholders seek court's permission to sue

Pauline Springett

**B**ONDHOLDERS who lost \$100 million when merchant bank Barings collapsed yesterday for permission to sue over their losses.

Mr Haskins was referring to an initiative in March 1992 when 40 directors led by Dixons' Sir Stanley Kahn (a supporter of the Labour campaign) and Lord Sheppard, then head of Grand Metropolitan, urged support for the Conservatives at the General Election in a letter to the Times.

Red Rose Economics

The markets will always be nervous of Labour's agenda, but these days the City admits to liking what it hears. PATRICK DONOVAN writes



On the stump... Shadow chancellor Gordon Brown in Ramworth with Brian Jenkins, candidate in today's Staffordshire South-east by-election. PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BURNER

Darlings of the dealers?

IT IS testimony to the much-criticised "short-termism" of the City that markets traditionally tend to ignore a general election until three months before the event. Whatever the political variables, however, an analysis of each of the eight elections since 1980 suggests that the City responds in three ways to a change of government.

markets respond to a change of government, is that there is no consistent pattern of performance if Labour wins. For the City, the uncertainty this time is further compounded by the extent to which Labour is perceived to have changed its spots. Labour has been intensively courting the financial markets. And to a large extent the City likes what it hears.

relations agency showed, more than seven out of 10 City respondents believe "Conservatives have the most effective economic policies". Yet over other issues regarding the regulation of the financial markets, the City is increasingly in sympathy with Labour policies.

But as BZW notes: "The themes appear non-ideological and pragmatic." Labour wants to change the approach and structure of regulation, but any changes will build on the modifications made since implementation of the Financial Services Act. Opposition spokesmen say: "It is essential that any changes recognise diversity of the financial services industry and the costs."

for the wholesale and retail sectors. It is on record as saying: "The doctrine of caveat emptor has more strength when corporate bodies deal with each other. Caveat emptor has less strength when an institution deals with a man or woman wanting to buy a life policy."

Other proposals involve the possibility of transferring the supervisory role of the Bank of England to a Banking Commission. On other issues, such as the vetting of takeover bids, Labour is likely to take a tougher stance, applying tougher "public interest" criteria. One leading City house suggested yesterday that policies are likely to include tighter restrictions on acquisition of British companies by foreign companies.

Granada set to meet profit pledge with price rises

GRANADA, the hotel, television and leisure group, said yesterday that it planned to raise prices at its hotels and roadside restaurants, acquired as part of January's £3.9 billion takeover of Forte. In a trading statement, Granada also said more job cuts at Forte's businesses were imminent. The company, which is "increasingly confident" of improving Forte profits by the £100 million it promised during the bid, said it had already raised room rates at Travelodge, and was planning further increases soon.

Underside

Dan Atkinson

GORDON Brown's doubts about the setting free of the Bank of England may have less to do with Crazy Eddie's worsening at the hands of "Three Men in a Boat" than with an alarming dialogue recently between GB and a deeply senior Bank bod. Labour, Mr Brown declared, was very worried at the lack of investment in the national economy. Very worried indeed. Bank persons was reassuring. The figures, he explained, were not so bad once you took out construction.

OX TALES (1): Meanwhile, wiser investors will be holding fire on ordering those ostrich shares that are the hot tip to replace holdings in Britain's manky old mad-as-hen beef industry. John Roe, welfare campaigner on behalf of the head-burying bird, warns that two cases of BSE-type infection have been detected in ostriches kept at a zoo in Germany. Oh, and ostriches are prone also to TB and ricketts. Other than that, eat up.

A CLOUD on the horizon for lucky Clive Thompson, the Rentokil chief who cleared a handy £4 million from share options last year. Come the emotional day when he hangs up his bug-slaying spray for the last time, Clive faces the same annual ordeal as all other Rentokil pensioners, that of proving to the company he is still alive, either by producing a doctor's note to that effect or by visiting the local nick and obtaining signed verification from a constable. Still, the fight against pension fraud comes first, right Clive?

OX TALES (2): In the days before Burger King and Ronald McDonald and Wendy's good old Wimpy kept us all alive with super-bender brunches and similar fare. So it was with a sense of nostalgia that we read Wimpy's BSE circular stressing the quality of its burgers. "The meat used in the famous Wimpy burger is 100 per cent British beef," it declared. Close readers may note the qualification: the meat is 100 per cent pure, not the burger.

THE law of mote and beam appears to have taken its toll of Peter Robinson, the ex-Woolwich chief currently battling allegations of "irregularities" in his business expenses. Back in 1998, Mr R was a Woolwich area manager, one of his mortgage salesmen was discovered to have turned a blind eye to a touch of salary-puffing on the part of a home loan applicant. The salesman was tackled before Mr Robinson dismissed with the words: "Honesty is the key word in this organisation. Anyone who doesn't have it is not welcome." No, quite.

HOPES that the appointment of some women to the Chancellor's Wise Men panel would lead to less hawkishness were dashed by the first report of the reconstituted group, released this week. With prices spiralling out of control - well, growing at 3.7 per cent - the report declares, in well-hard tones, NO to any more interest-rate cuts. Just one panellist promoted the kinder, gentler way, a certain Professor Minford, who is (a) a touch tight wing and (b) not a woman. Don't ever change, Prof (especially not your sex).



Jobs at risk in Swiss merger talks

THOUSANDS of City jobs hang in the balance today with UBS, the Swiss bank, set to announce whether to give its backing to a merger with a rival, Credit Suisse. Part of the rationale for the deal would be the enormous savings that could be made by avoiding job cuts in both Switzerland and the Square Mile. In the City the most vulnerable area is perceived to be the banks' research divisions, where there is overlap between the two sets of analysts.

Bristol & West takeover fever SPECULATION that Bristol & West's savers and borrowers could soon be in line for big bonuses reached fever pitch yesterday when Britain's ninth biggest building society confirmed that it had discussed possible takeovers with the regulator, the Building Societies Commission. Allied Irish Banks emerged as the favourite in City circles to take over Bristol & West. Last week the society emphatically denied rumours of a deal with National Australia Bank, but refused to rule out a bid by Allied Irish, which has openly sought a link with a UK building society for many years.

Water share sale raises £77m THE Government sold most of its remaining holdings in the privatised water companies yesterday, raising £77 million for the Treasury. The brokers SBC Warburg bought the shares in a competitive auction organised by Rothschild merchant bank, and will sell them on to institutional investors.

Rover dealers face axe THE Rover car company is to cut up to 25 per cent of its 511-strong dealer network in line with plans to move its brand upmarket. The cut, to take place over the next two years, comes as Rover seeks to reposition its cars at the premium end of the market. The company also envisages a fall in UK sales, from a 12 per cent market share to about 9 per cent. Owned by BMW, Rover wants to replace its traditional dependence on the home market with greater exports and plans a push into more than 30 new markets abroad this year alone. - Chris Barrie

Smurfit profits up 32pc IRISH paper and packaging group Jefferson Smurfit unveiled a 32 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to IR£420 million (£85 million) yesterday but warned the paper market was weak, with oversupply forcing prices down. Deputy chairman Dermot Smurfit said it was not clear how much further the market, which started to deteriorate last year, would decline. - Pauline Springett

Advertisement for Advantage45 insurance. Features include: '45 or over? Pay less for better home protection or we pay you!', 'Advantage45 is a new kind of household insurance offering better cover at lower cost - but only for people aged 45 or over.', 'Request for a Quotation' form with fields for name, address, and contact details. Includes a list of questions about the property and household.

Handwritten Arabic text: 'صكتنا من الاعمال'

Cricket
Lamb pushes for Beefy

Paul Weaver reports on an old pal's act proposing Ian Botham as England supremo

AN OPINION poll last Easter weekend informed us that half the people of Britain believed in the resurrection. Now England cricketers, not to be outdone by theologians or anyone else in this season of blooming daffodils and blossoming willows, have entered the revival debate and their message is clear: Ian Botham must return.

Yesterday the Surrey pair of Alec Stewart and Graham Thorpe came out in support of Botham's controversial bid to become a Test selector (Stewart, whose best years may be behind him and who is certainly no longer an automatic Test choice, may have done himself no favours). Then, at lunchtime, Allan Lamb went one stage further. "Botham for Supremacy" was his message. There is nothing equivocal about Lamb. Asking him a question is rather like bowling him at half-volley - it comes ping-pong back over your head with the hard, harsh tones of Langebaanweg, Cape Province.

"One man should be in charge and he should pick the selectors. Ian Botham would do it so we would tell him to go and sort it out." "We have to take the bull by the horns. The modern game has changed and we can't be stubborn and blinkered about it. The game is leaping away from us. The situation we have got into is farcical. I have three players nominated as selectors my choice would be Graham Gooch and Beefy. But Ily has stood down as supremo and I think Beefy could replace him, though he would have to give up the media work."



Quick delivery... Allan Lamb gives the press the benefit of his wisdom in London yesterday

The 41-year-old Lamb was speaking in a swish Knightsbridge hotel where he and Robin Smith had announced a joint testimonial match at Highclere Castle near Newbury on July 16, when an England side will face a World XI featuring Aravinda de Silva, Anil Kumble, Paul Adams, Shaun Pollock, Dennis Lillee and Malcolm Marshall. It could be the only cricket Lamb gets this summer. When asked about his plans to play for Northamptonshire this season, in what would be his last year in county cricket, he replied: "The situation looks very dismal. I would like to reach a compromise with the TCCB but the odds are against it."

Lamb would need to sign a contract with the Test and County Cricket Board in order to play on. But the board could prevent him publishing his lucrative and controversial autobiography. The book is not due out until September but newspaper serialisation will come before that - just in time to cause the board maximum embarrassment. Pakistan will be touring England during the second half of the summer and Lamb is expected to enlarge on a number of accusations he made against players from that country following their 1992 tour.

Yesterday, however, he wanted to talk about English players and he sounded a little like a supremo himself. "We have to get rid of the older players and cut playing staffs down to 15. Some players should be told their time is up - the dead wood who are blocking the system." The main reason older players block the system, of course, is to get a benefit, usually awarded after 10 years' service as a capped player (Lamb had a reported £184,000 in 1988). The only reason dead wood hangs around after that is in the hope of a testimonial. Highclere Castle, the home of Lord and Lady Carnarvon, is dominated by cedars of Lebanon and adorned by paintings by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Van Dyck. The days when beneficiaries begged around the boundary with a sheet for loose change seem long gone.

Rowing
One last heave for Steve

STEVE REDGRAVE, who will be attempting to win an unprecedented fourth successive Olympic rowing gold medal in Atlanta, confirmed yesterday that he plans to retire after the Games.

The 34-year-old oarsman, who has also won six world titles, said: "I have been racing now for the last 20 years and I can't see myself doing another four years' training. "I am training hard for Atlanta to go the way we want it to go. Then I would be very happy to walk away from the sport - certainly from the competitive side."

Matthew Pinsent, with whom Redgrave defends the coxless pairs title they won in Barcelona, says he plans to carry on competing. "The 25-year-old said: 'For both of us, the bottom line is that Atlanta is going to be a big change in our lives. We are both pretty convinced we will be heading in different directions.' Both men say their preparations for Atlanta are going well. Redgrave has switched to stroke and Pinsent to the bow and Pinsent said: "We are both comfortable with it and enjoying the change. None of us, including our coach, knows whether we are going to change back, if at all."

The pair were speaking at the launch of a Barclaycard Visa scheme to donate \$500,000 to the British Olympic Association and British Paralympic Association for training camps, coaches and equipment.

Racing
Sham looks real thing for Guineas

OSRA SHAM, hot favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, is well on target for her seasonal debut next week after being put through her paces on the Newmarket gallops yesterday.

Unbeaten in two starts last year, the Henry Cecil-trained filly looked in fine shape in a workout with Storm Trooper and Altes Royale. "We're delighted with her," said owner Wafiq Said's racing manager Tim Bulwer-Long. "She will run in the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury on Friday week with Pat Ebdon aboard."

Osra Sham is now 64, from 74, for the Guineas with Ladbrokes following further backing yesterday. William Hill offer 7-4. "Fixing Flagship is the star turn on Cheltenham's penultimate jumping fixture of the season today, but he is opposed by only Travo and Gales Cavalier in the Mira Galas Silver Trophy Chase. "There are few more genuine or talented chasers in training than Viking Flagship but not even his exceptional enthusiasm could contain the run of Klaron Davis, who deprived him of a hat-trick of two Mile Chases during his apprenticeship at the Festival meeting last month."

Whether that was a true reflection of the respective merits of the two horses is open to doubt, for when they met again at Aintree over an extra half-mile, Viking Flagship got his revenge in emphatic style, beating his rival by over 20 lengths. Today's race should be a formality for Viking Flagship (3.05), who has repeatedly had the measure of Travo over six lengths behind him in the Champion Chase - and is simply different class to the other runner. My only reservation is to wonder whether it is strictly necessary for connections to ask Viking Flagship for yet another effort this season. This will be his seventh race and fourth since February 24. One of the nicest young horses around this season is Storm Frontline (3.20), who should be up to shouldering top weight in the BFB Novice Handicap Hurdle Final. Geoff Hubbard, his owner-trainer, said earlier this season that he would not be overracing this five-year-old but he has not been able to stick to that resolve and this will be a ninth outing for Storm Frontline, who should win if recovered from his second to Urubande at Aintree. The quality of the runners in the Timeform Golden Miller Handicap Chase do not quite measure up to the grandiose race title, but Big Ben Dura (4.15) is lightly raced and could go close off bottom weight. On the Flat at Hamilton, Rambo Waltzer (2.20), the in-form stable of David Nicholson, looks a good bet in the Calder Apprentice Handicap.

Carroll in trouble over non-trier

TRAINER Tony Carroll was fined £500 and jockey Richard Davis banned for five days under the non-triers rule at Worcester yesterday. The pair were up before the stewards concerning the running and riding of newcomer South West Express, who finished 11th, beaten 24 lengths by Litening Conductor in division two of the National Hunt Flat Race.

They were found guilty of schooling and conditioning in public after the stewards considered the colt had been handled throughout the race. Carroll, in his first season as a trainer, was dumbstruck by the decision and left the course making no comment, but Davis fumed: "I think I've been very hard done by. The horse has his quirks and has been difficult to get this far."

Cheltenham (N.H.) with guide to the form

Table with race details for Cheltenham, including race numbers, names, and odds. Includes sections for 1.55, 2.50, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.40, 5.15, 5.40, 6.15, 6.40, 7.15, 7.40, 8.15, 8.40, 9.15, 9.40, 10.15, 10.40, 11.15, 11.40, 12.15, 12.40, 13.15, 13.40, 14.15, 14.40, 15.15, 15.40, 16.15, 16.40, 17.15, 17.40, 18.15, 18.40, 19.15, 19.40, 20.15, 20.40, 21.15, 21.40, 22.15, 22.40, 23.15, 23.40, 24.15, 24.40, 25.15, 25.40, 26.15, 26.40, 27.15, 27.40, 28.15, 28.40, 29.15, 29.40, 30.15, 30.40, 31.15, 31.40, 32.15, 32.40, 33.15, 33.40, 34.15, 34.40, 35.15, 35.40, 36.15, 36.40, 37.15, 37.40, 38.15, 38.40, 39.15, 39.40, 40.15, 40.40, 41.15, 41.40, 42.15, 42.40, 43.15, 43.40, 44.15, 44.40, 45.15, 45.40, 46.15, 46.40, 47.15, 47.40, 48.15, 48.40, 49.15, 49.40, 50.15, 50.40, 51.15, 51.40, 52.15, 52.40, 53.15, 53.40, 54.15, 54.40, 55.15, 55.40, 56.15, 56.40, 57.15, 57.40, 58.15, 58.40, 59.15, 59.40, 60.15, 60.40, 61.15, 61.40, 62.15, 62.40, 63.15, 63.40, 64.15, 64.40, 65.15, 65.40, 66.15, 66.40, 67.15, 67.40, 68.15, 68.40, 69.15, 69.40, 70.15, 70.40, 71.15, 71.40, 72.15, 72.40, 73.15, 73.40, 74.15, 74.40, 75.15, 75.40, 76.15, 76.40, 77.15, 77.40, 78.15, 78.40, 79.15, 79.40, 80.15, 80.40, 81.15, 81.40, 82.15, 82.40, 83.15, 83.40, 84.15, 84.40, 85.15, 85.40, 86.15, 86.40, 87.15, 87.40, 88.15, 88.40, 89.15, 89.40, 90.15, 90.40, 91.15, 91.40, 92.15, 92.40, 93.15, 93.40, 94.15, 94.40, 95.15, 95.40, 96.15, 96.40, 97.15, 97.40, 98.15, 98.40, 99.15, 99.40, 100.15, 100.40.

Results

Table with race results for Cheltenham, including race numbers, names, and winners. Includes sections for 1.55, 2.50, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.40, 5.15, 5.40, 6.15, 6.40, 7.15, 7.40, 8.15, 8.40, 9.15, 9.40, 10.15, 10.40, 11.15, 11.40, 12.15, 12.40, 13.15, 13.40, 14.15, 14.40, 15.15, 15.40, 16.15, 16.40, 17.15, 17.40, 18.15, 18.40, 19.15, 19.40, 20.15, 20.40, 21.15, 21.40, 22.15, 22.40, 23.15, 23.40, 24.15, 24.40, 25.15, 25.40, 26.15, 26.40, 27.15, 27.40, 28.15, 28.40, 29.15, 29.40, 30.15, 30.40, 31.15, 31.40, 32.15, 32.40, 33.15, 33.40, 34.15, 34.40, 35.15, 35.40, 36.15, 36.40, 37.15, 37.40, 38.15, 38.40, 39.15, 39.40, 40.15, 40.40, 41.15, 41.40, 42.15, 42.40, 43.15, 43.40, 44.15, 44.40, 45.15, 45.40, 46.15, 46.40, 47.15, 47.40, 48.15, 48.40, 49.15, 49.40, 50.15, 50.40, 51.15, 51.40, 52.15, 52.40, 53.15, 53.40, 54.15, 54.40, 55.15, 55.40, 56.15, 56.40, 57.15, 57.40, 58.15, 58.40, 59.15, 59.40, 60.15, 60.40, 61.15, 61.40, 62.15, 62.40, 63.15, 63.40, 64.15, 64.40, 65.15, 65.40, 66.15, 66.40, 67.15, 67.40, 68.15, 68.40, 69.15, 69.40, 70.15, 70.40, 71.15, 71.40, 72.15, 72.40, 73.15, 73.40, 74.15, 74.40, 75.15, 75.40, 76.15, 76.40, 77.15, 77.40, 78.15, 78.40, 79.15, 79.40, 80.15, 80.40, 81.15, 81.40, 82.15, 82.40, 83.15, 83.40, 84.15, 84.40, 85.15, 85.40, 86.15, 86.40, 87.15, 87.40, 88.15, 88.40, 89.15, 89.40, 90.15, 90.40, 91.15, 91.40, 92.15, 92.40, 93.15, 93.40, 94.15, 94.40, 95.15, 95.40, 96.15, 96.40, 97.15, 97.40, 98.15, 98.40, 99.15, 99.40, 100.15, 100.40.

RACELINE
0930 168+
CHELTENHAM
HAMILTON
FONTWELL
IRISH
RACELINE

Hamilton runners and riders

Table with race details for Hamilton, including race numbers, names, and odds. Includes sections for 1.55, 2.50, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.40, 5.15, 5.40, 6.15, 6.40, 7.15, 7.40, 8.15, 8.40, 9.15, 9.40, 10.15, 10.40, 11.15, 11.40, 12.15, 12.40, 13.15, 13.40, 14.15, 14.40, 15.15, 15.40, 16.15, 16.40, 17.15, 17.40, 18.15, 18.40, 19.15, 19.40, 20.15, 20.40, 21.15, 21.40, 22.15, 22.40, 23.15, 23.40, 24.15, 24.40, 25.15, 25.40, 26.15, 26.40, 27.15, 27.40, 28.15, 28.40, 29.15, 29.40, 30.15, 30.40, 31.15, 31.40, 32.15, 32.40, 33.15, 33.40, 34.15, 34.40, 35.15, 35.40, 36.15, 36.40, 37.15, 37.40, 38.15, 38.40, 39.15, 39.40, 40.15, 40.40, 41.15, 41.40, 42.15, 42.40, 43.15, 43.40, 44.15, 44.40, 45.15, 45.40, 46.15, 46.40, 47.15, 47.40, 48.15, 48.40, 49.15, 49.40, 50.15, 50.40, 51.15, 51.40, 52.15, 52.40, 53.15, 53.40, 54.15, 54.40, 55.15, 55.40, 56.15, 56.40, 57.15, 57.40, 58.15, 58.40, 59.15, 59.40, 60.15, 60.40, 61.15, 61.40, 62.15, 62.40, 63.15, 63.40, 64.15, 64.40, 65.15, 65.40, 66.15, 66.40, 67.15, 67.40, 68.15, 68.40, 69.15, 69.40, 70.15, 70.40, 71.15, 71.40, 72.15, 72.40, 73.15, 73.40, 74.15, 74.40, 75.15, 75.40, 76.15, 76.40, 77.15, 77.40, 78.15, 78.40, 79.15, 79.40, 80.15, 80.40, 81.15, 81.40, 82.15, 82.40, 83.15, 83.40, 84.15, 84.40, 85.15, 85.40, 86.15, 86.40, 87.15, 87.40, 88.15, 88.40, 89.15, 89.40, 90.15, 90.40, 91.15, 91.40, 92.15, 92.40, 93.15, 93.40, 94.15, 94.40, 95.15, 95.40, 96.15, 96.40, 97.15, 97.40, 98.15, 98.40, 99.15, 99.40, 100.15, 100.40.

Fontwell National Hunt card

Table with race details for Fontwell, including race numbers, names, and odds. Includes sections for 1.55, 2.50, 3.05, 3.40, 4.15, 4.40, 5.15, 5.40, 6.15, 6.40, 7.15, 7.40, 8.15, 8.40, 9.15, 9.40, 10.15, 10.40, 11.15, 11.40, 12.15, 12.40, 13.15, 13.40, 14.15, 14.40, 15.15, 15.40, 16.15, 16.40, 17.15, 17.40, 18.15, 18.40, 19.15, 19.40, 20.15, 20.40, 21.15, 21.40, 22.15, 22.40, 23.15, 23.40, 24.15, 24.40, 25.15, 25.40, 26.15, 26.40, 27.15, 27.40, 28.15, 28.40, 29.15, 29.40, 30.15, 30.40, 31.15, 31.40, 32.15, 32.40, 33.15, 33.40, 34.15, 34.40, 35.15, 35.40, 36.15, 36.40, 37.15, 37.40, 38.15, 38.40, 39.15, 39.40, 40.15, 40.40, 41.15, 41.40, 42.15, 42.40, 43.15, 43.40, 44.15, 44.40, 45.15, 45.40, 46.15, 46.40, 47.15, 47.40, 48.15, 48.40, 49.15, 49.40, 50.15, 50.40, 51.15, 51.40, 52.15, 52.40, 53.15, 53.40, 54.15, 54.40, 55.15, 55.40, 56.15, 56.40, 57.15, 57.40, 58.15, 58.40, 59.15, 59.40, 60.15, 60.40, 61.15, 61.40, 62.15, 62.40, 63.15, 63.40, 64.15, 64.40, 65.15, 65.40, 66.15, 66.40, 67.15, 67.40, 68.15, 68.40, 69.15, 69.40, 70.15, 70.40, 71.15, 71.40, 72.15, 72.40, 73.15, 73.40, 74.15, 74.40, 75.15, 75.40, 76.15, 76.40, 77.15, 77.40, 78.15, 78.40, 79.15, 79.40, 80.15, 80.40, 81.15, 81.40, 82.15, 82.40, 83.15, 83.40, 84.15, 84.40, 85.15, 85.40, 86.15, 86.40, 87.15, 87.40, 88.15, 88.40, 89.15, 89.40, 90.15, 90.40, 91.15, 91.40, 92.15, 92.40, 93.15, 93.40, 94.15, 94.40, 95.15, 95.40, 96.15, 96.40, 97.15, 97.40, 98.15, 98.40, 99.15, 99.40, 100.15, 100.40.

Warren Marston, who picked up a two-day ban for careless riding at Worcester yesterday, will miss the big meeting at Ayr later this month when he was due to partner Welford or De Be Brief in the Scottish Grand National, and Indefence or Master Tribe in the Scottish Champion Hurdle.
Blinke first time today: None.



Wheeler... Faldo's caddy Fanny Sunesson measures a shot

David Davies at Augusta says that when battle commences for the green jacket at the US Masters today, the long are more blessed than the short and the tall

# Els gets set to throw the power switch

THE question is, in essence, simple: the answer full of imponderables. What does it take to win the US Masters?

Who, in a field of 80, has the best chance of sliding his arms into the green coat that goes to the champion come Sunday night?

For as long as the Masters has been played, and this is the 80th edition, at the Augusta National golf club certain players have held a huge advantage over the field.

There was a time, for instance, in the Sixties, when if the title did not go to Jack Nicklaus it went to Arnold Palmer, for those two men had one thing in common: an ability to hit the ball further than anyone else.

They are all holes where the design and the terrain mean that an elite part of the field can gain up to 50 or 60 yards off the tee on their less well-endowed brethren.

They are all holes where the graphic (right) shows the holes and the advantages gained, but it has to be stressed that only a small proportion of the field will be able to avail themselves of the advantages offered. All

golfers are not created equal and only a few have God's gift of extreme length.

It may be that an amateur will prove to be this year's longest of the long, for only yesterday Greg Norman said of Tiger Woods that he considered him able to hit the ball further than John Daly.

Norman and Daly of course come into the right category and almost no one is longer than Davis Love III when he unwinds one — and anyone seeking to outdrive Ernie Els had better be both good and in form.

Tom Lehman, who almost beat Jose-Maria Olazabal in 1994, is a big man and belts it a long way and Ian Woosnam is a small man who hits it an incredible distance when confident.

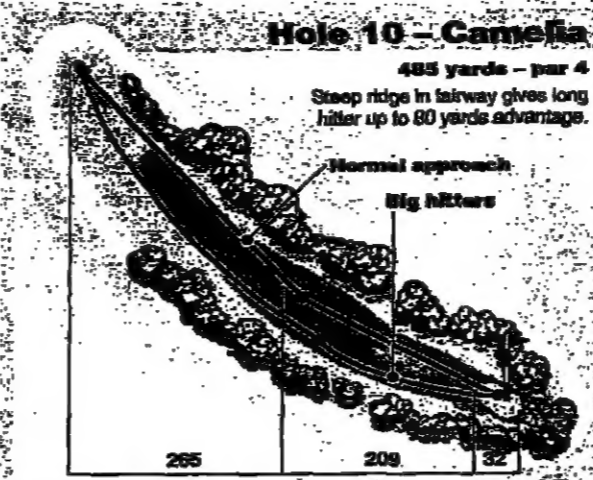
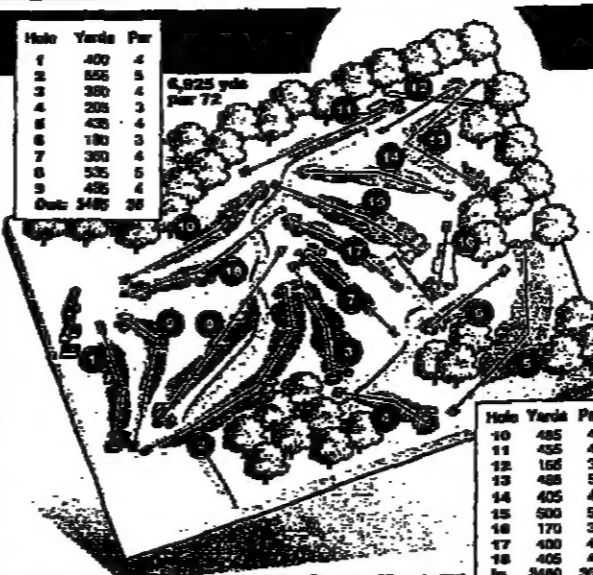
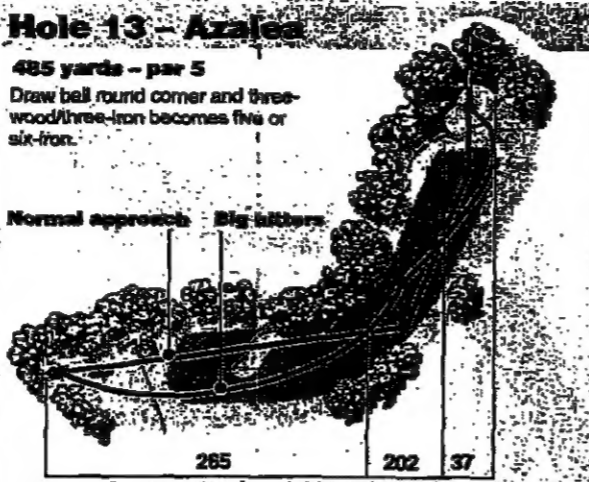
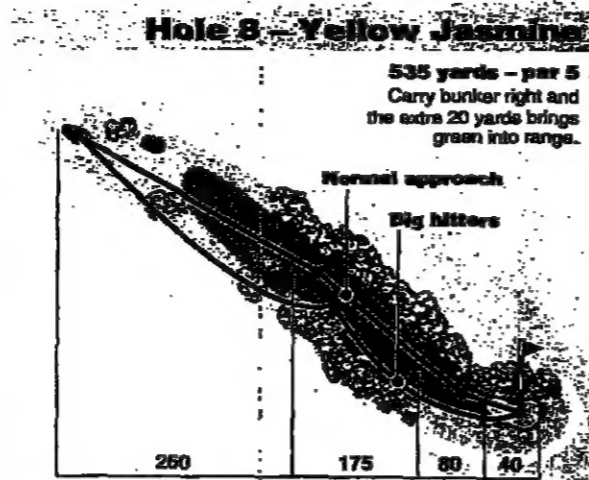
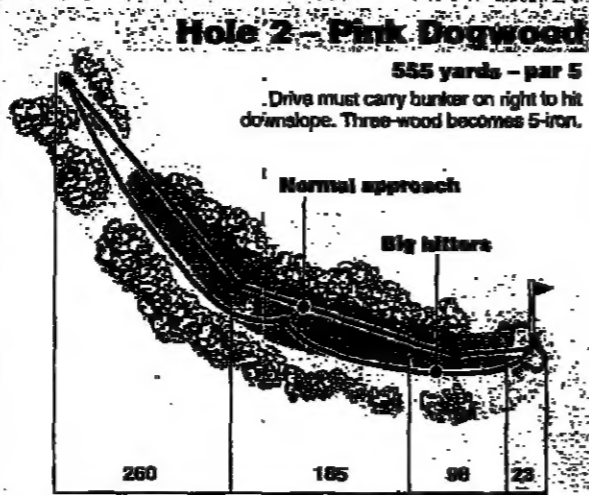
The Japanese would argue that Jumbo Ozaki is not outdistanced by anyone and the massive arc generated by Vijay Singh culminates in the ball being dispatched frightening distances.

Fred Couples may not be quite as long as he once was, for his back troubles him now and again, but he is still long enough, while Sandy Lyle, champion in 1988, feels he is longer now than then. Day in, day out, Lyle may be the longest of them all and because of that Augusta ought to suit him particularly.

But he missed the cut after he won shorter clubs into the greens. The graphic (right) shows the holes and the advantages gained, but it has to be stressed that only a small proportion of the field will be able to avail themselves of the advantages offered. All

This year, though, he has an extra and a special reason for wanting to win. His father, Alex, the much-loved professional at Hawkstone Park in Shropshire, died in

## US masters 96



February and, said Lyle: 'I'd love to win this for him.' Lyle snr was at Augusta to witness his son's win and, said Sandy, 'literally wore out the video tape in the years afterwards'.

Lyle is probably not far enough along the road to recovery to win this week, but all the above mentioned

year's experience behind him could be dangerous. In theory Augusta is made for Daly. A huge hitter, he can carry all the obstacles and, in theory again, there is no rough at all on the course.

But Daly is occasionally so wild that he finds places not even he can recover from, and

There is one group that has an advantage: the men with the muscles, Big Boys Inc, who prosper enormously at Augusta

have good-to-outstanding chances. To take them in order, Woods, in theory, has no chance at all because no amateur since Bobby Jones in 1930 has won a major championship. But such eminences as Norman and Love are not prepared to write him off simply because he has such an abundant talent. Woods was the only player in '95 to carry the bunker at the 2nd hole in all four rounds and with last

# Jackson to reconsider BAF boycott

Parental pressure seems certain to force Colin Jackson to reconsider his decision to boycott most of the big domestic meetings this summer, he said yesterday.

However, he will not seek a reconciliation with Peter Radford, the chief executive of the British Athletic Federation.

Jackson, the 110-metres hurdles world record holder, is ready to reverse his decision to boycott most of the big domestic meetings this summer, he said yesterday.

Even if he does make his peace with the BAF, it is too late for him to compete in Britain's flag ship meeting, the IAAF Grand Prix event at Crystal Palace on July 12.

It will be meeting the promotions people who know how to make a sale on the issue," he said at the Visa Olympic sponsorship launch in London. "If they can understand the problems I had last year that is the key thing. The BAF and the public would like to see me competing, so there is a lot to think about."

# Rugby League Fairbank cup place in danger

Karl Fairbank, Bradford Bulls' long-serving forward, will anxiously await the outcome of today's disciplinary hearing after being sent off for a high tackle against Sheffield Eagles last Friday.

Fairbank, who has made 16 appearances for Great Britain, is the last of five brothers still playing the game. He joined Bradford from the Elland amateur club in 1986.

South Wales are being linked with the Warrington and Wales forward Mark Jones. "If South Wales make a realistic offer it will be considered," said Alex Murphy, Warrington's football director.

But Jones will not be allowed to move on loan. "We have already loaned them Andy Currier," said Murphy. "We are not a charity."

# Hockey GB trip may be in vain

The men's Great Britain squad arrived here late on Tuesday for a pre-Olympic tournament to find that the event may not take place.

Not only is the Games main hockey venue at the Morris Brown College unavailable, but the second pitch at Clark Atlantic University has still not been re-laid.

The managers of the six competing teams, led by Britain's David Whittle, were in discussions all day yesterday with tournament officials.

It has been further complicated by incessant rain that has delayed work on the Clark pitch, which is having to be re-laid because it was deemed unsafe after an ACOG-sponsored women's international event last August.

# Trigger happy to shoot for stars

Helen Smyth talks to Sheffield's Mark Roe, who is counting his blessings as the most unlikely competitor at the Masters

MARK ROE was opening his post on Christmas Eve when he came across "a lovely, cream envelope with beautiful scintillating". Intrigued, he looked at the postmark and thought: "Now who do I know in Georgia?" It was his Masters invitation.

"That was when it sank in that I was really going," said Roe, who earned his place in characteristically unlikely fashion in the middle of his worst season as a professional. The 33-year-old from Sheffield had tied for 13th place in the US Open at Chimneycock Hills, which meant automatic qualification for Augusta.

"I've been getting more and more excited the closer it gets," said Roe, "but then you start worrying — don't fall down the stairs, don't twist an ankle, don't break a finger. I'm so excited."

would be on each day, his feelings and thoughts about the place. "Just breathing is a joy for me these days. In March last year he was such an emotional mess that he sat in his attic with a loaded shotgun in his mouth, thinking how easy it would be to end it all. Instead, he put the gun away — his peers call him Trigger now — and sorted out his life."

He told Jane, his wife for 16 years, that he had fallen in love with someone else. "The hardest thing was coming to terms with the fact that I would be hurting someone I'd love," Roe said. "It was the lowest point in my life."

They are now divorced. "It hasn't been a nasty, angry, little divorce. Neither of us wanted it to drag on" — and he has settled down with Julia Morris, the new woman in his life. The mess is tidier now.

"I don't like grey areas," said Roe, one of those passionate in actions and ruminations around antique shops. "I've always been

# Ice Hockey Referee under fire as Britain blow hot then blow out

Tony Allen in Edinburgh

THE Great Britain coach Peter Woods had few good words for the Finnish referee after the 6-5 defeat by Latvia, the tournament favourites, in the opening game of the World Championship Pool B.

At that point Latvia changed their netminder, and with him their fortunes. Sergei Boldarev and Vyacheslav Fandulis brought the score level before Stephen Foster, who performed heroically on his international return, was beaten by Belaviskis while Moria was serving a penalty.

Hope of a late equaliser were dashed when Bishop was penalised for hooking, leaving Britain to play the final 91 seconds short-handed.

### Davis Love III. His 1st win at the Vth attempt: XVI/I.

TO WIN THE US MASTERS

11/1 F. Couples	33/1 J. Daly
14/1 C. Montgomerie	33/1 J. Hahn
14/1 G. Norman	33/1 S. Hoch
16/1 E. Els	33/1 L. Janzen
16/1 D. Love III	33/1 B. Langer
16/1 C. Pavin	33/1 M. O'Meara
16/1 N. Price	33/1 L. Roberts
18/1 N. Faldo	33/1 V. Singh
20/1 S. Elkington	40/1 M. Calavecchia
20/1 T. Lehman	40/1 D. Frost
20/1 P. Mickelton	40/1 J. Furyk
20/1 I. Woosnam	40/1 P. Stewart

EVN one-quarter the odds a place 1.2, 3, 4 Other prices on request

Non-starter - no bet

### FORECAST THE FIRST TWO HOME

'95 US Masters Again	'95 US Open 1,2	'95 Open Revisited
B. Crenshaw (50/1)	C. Pavin (16/1)	J. Daly (33/1)
D. Love III (16/1)	G. Norman (14/1)	C. Rocca (150/1)

Dual Forecast odds 30/1 125/1 2,000/1

FOR INSTANT BETTING, FREEPHONE 0800 524 524

Ladbrokes are favourite.

صكنا من الامل



Allan Lamb's dream ticket, page 13

Mastering the Masters, page 14

Player faces sack over drugs, page 15

Shoot-out in the West, page 15

# SportsGuardian

## WOMAN ACCUSES WORLD CHAMPION OF ATTACK IN NIGHTCLUB



Tyson's women: clockwise, with Robin Givens (ex-wife), Desiree Washington (rape victim) and Monica Turner



Kevin Mitchell on the life and loves of the Brownsville boy who discovered Islam while in jail for rape but now finds trouble following him around while out on parole



# Tyson back in a corner

**T**ROUBLE continues to follow Mike Tyson around. The world heavyweight champion has been accused again of sexual assault, this time in a Chicago nightclub only hours after he had attended a Muslim prayer meeting.

His fighting career — revived by a stunning victory over Frank Bruno last month — and his liberty will be determined in the next day or so as police investigate the complaint, the details of which remained vague last night, giving rise to suspicions among his closest associates that the millionaire boxer might have been set up.

If guilty, however, and subsequently sent back to prison

for breaching the conditions of his parole, Tyson's life will be returned to the turmoil that engulfed him in 1992 when he was convicted of raping the beauty queen Desiree Washington.

He was jailed for six years then and released last March, apparently convinced of the virtues of Islam and preparing for marriage soon to Monica Turner, a divorced trainee doctor who visited him in the Indiana Detention Centre. They have a two-month-old daughter, Raynor.

This time the aggrieved woman from Indiana is said to have arrived with friends at a Southside club called The Clique on Sunday night and, according to conflicting versions, had either asked to be

introduced to Tyson, who arrived with a small entourage about 1 am and stayed for two hours, or was approached by the fighter.

The woman says Tyson committed "sexual battery", although it was not specified where and when the alleged assault took place. Moody Andrews, a manager at The Clique, said: "She was never alone with Mike. She was in an open space with him. Mike had two security guards that we hired to protect and watch over him." He said Tyson was not drinking.

Tyson was with his former sparring partner Oliver McCall, a noted wild man who two nights later was arrested in North Carolina for possession of marijuana.

The complainant said she was treated in a Chicago hospital and released on Monday morning. She filed a complaint with police on Tuesday. Her lawyer Jerry Lee Pe-

## Final home run for Yankees' field of dreams



Ian Katz

**A**SK ANY old timer at a New York Yankees home game and he will point out the spot up in the right-field bleachers where Babe Ruth hit a home run in the stadium's inaugural game, or trace the trajectory of the Mickey Mantle bullet that on May 22 1963 came closer than any ball before or since to leaving the fabled ballpark.

But try it five years from now and the chances are you will be met with a blank look for the Bronx Bombers are poised to abandon the House that Ruth Built. Never mind that Yankee Stadium is synonymous the world over with baseball, or that it was the home of Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio, team owner George Steinbrenner wants out.

Complaining that the crime-infested South Bronx detests fans, Steinbrenner has deftly played off New York city against New Jersey in a stadium beauty contest. So terrified is New York of seeing the Yanks follow football's Jets and Giants across the Hudson that the city may build a new \$1 billion (2670 million) stadium in Manhattan to keep them.

Fans and sportswriters are outraged. But though Steinbrenner is a mean-spirited figure loathed by every New Yorker, there is, in the hard-headed milieu of American sport, nothing unusual about his scorn for tradition.

Of the 15 great ballparks built between 1909 and 1915, only three, Detroit's Tiger Stadium, Chicago's Wrigley Field and Boston's Fenway Park, survive. Comiskey Park, grand-daddy of them all, was "rubbed out" a few years ago. There is endless talk of building a new Fenway Park and Detroit fans may not hold off the developers much longer.

Grumbling about massive wage bills, team owners want car parks and corporate suites, not history and charm. Instead of the distance from home plate to the right-field boundary, they are concerned with the number of escalators and concession stands. Will there be room for sushi and pizza?

It's not just baseball. Last season the Chicago Bulls unceremoniously abandoned the

65-year-old arena where they had just racked up three consecutive NBA championships. They took the keyboard of the famous Barton Organ from "the Barn" to the gleamy United Centre (eight escalators, nine elevators, 50 rest-rooms) across the street, but not much else. A few months later the Boston Celtics played their last game on the parquet floor of the Boston Garden.

**S**INCE most football stadiums were built more recently, NFL stadiums had less tradition to defile but they have tried hard nevertheless. Last season, for instance, the San Francisco 49ers took to playing their home games at 3-COM Park instead of Candlestick Park. It's not that they moved anywhere, they just sold the name of the stadium.

The tragedy of abandoning old grounds is greatest in baseball because every ballpark was once different. Unlike other American sports, baseball made no prescriptions for the size of its fields of dreams: the distance from home plate to the centre-field boundary has varied from 390ft to 635ft. Comiskey Park, the story goes, was built for pitchers; Wrigley Field is a hitters' paradise.

Every ballpark guards its idiosyncracies jealously. Fenway Park has the "Green Monster", a great wall across the left outfield that taunts sluggers into swinging for a memorable homer. Wrigley Field is known for the ivy that clings to the old brick walls in defiance of the fierce winds from Lake Michigan.

In the 1960s and 1970s such quirks were all but purged as city after city threw up soulless multi-purpose concrete stadiums with names like SkyDome, Kingdome and AstroDome. But recently ballpark designers have turned back the clock. From home plate of Baltimore's instantly popular Camden Yards, it is just 460ft to the windows of a neighbouring warehouse — close enough to tempt ambitious sluggers. Cleveland's stylishly retro Jacobs Field has transformed the fortunes of the long-happless Indians.

Few hold out hope for a similarly romantic replacement for Yankee Stadium. Talk so far, has focussed on a multipurpose complex that would double as a conference centre. Perhaps Steinbrenner will take the trouble of installing a plaque on the site of Yankee Stadium like the one that used to mark the spot where the Brooklyn Dodgers played before they headed west in 1957. "This is the former home of Ebbets Field," it declared. "Please, no ballplaying."

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## Short 'N' Sweet hearing sees two racehorse owners warned off after flapping offences

**Ron Cox**

**T**WO racehorse owners were warned off for 18 years by the Jockey Club yesterday after an inquiry into the betting coup pulled off by the "flapper" Pretty Average at Thirsk last July.

Patricia Hamilton and Jim McDonald were barred after Pretty Average was found to have been "flapping" — that is running in unlicensed races — in Scotland under the name Short 'N' Sweet.

The disciplinary hearing was concluded in under two hours after McDonald and Hamilton both acknowledged breaking the rules. Hamilton admitted misleading racecourse stewards, while McDonald admitted breaching rules covering involvement with flapping horses, including the running of another horse — Hotspur — under

rules by the name of Bluefauld in 1995.

Hamilton denied knowledge of Short 'N' Sweet or that Pretty Average had been flapping when the facts came to light last August. However, the horses had been entered to run in flapping races at Newcastleton, an unlicensed track in the Scottish Borders, this weekend. This is thought to have brought the hearing to a speedier conclusion.

Pretty Average was a well-backed winner — from 50-1 down to 20-1 — of the Rocom Selling Handicap on July 29 last year, having joined the Lincolnshire trainer Basil Richmond only a few weeks earlier.

Richmond, who was cleared of any breach of the rules before the inquiry, sent out Pretty Average to finish third in another selling race two days later but the mare suddenly left his yard the following week.

There is no question of the law being broken and involvement with flappers usually means disqualification from ownership of 12 months.

But David Pipe, the Jockey Club director of public affairs, said: "The stewards of the disciplinary committee viewed this as an extremely serious offence as the public, bookmakers, the Jockey Club and the handicapper had all been deliberately deceived for financial gain."

The former jockey and trainer Dermot Browne was the last person to be disqualified. He received a 10-year suspension for, among other charges, giving information to a bookmaker for monetary gain.

The last flapper found to be running under rules was in 1984 when Spare Wheel, from Peter Cundell's stable, won the Mildenhall Claiming Stakes at Newmarket. Spare Wheel, who had run at unlicensed meetings unbeknown to Cundell, was disqualified and his owner R G Griffiths warned off for 15 years.

More racing, page 13

## Guardian Crossword No 20,624

Set by Custos

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

**Across**

- Being sacked, presented with the slice of mutton? (7,3,4)
- Surpasses one, or gets higher still (8)
- Girl directing wrath towards loveless one (5)
- Human bone found in Troy? (5)
- Distressed men hustle to get a topi (3-6)
- Ruling oppressively, by reforming with a girl in charge (8)
- Mum enthusiastic about a foreign religion (8)
- Stores a king kept in coal-scuttles (6)
- Scene of great victory, leading to Roman hat waving (8)
- Abandoning waste, I'll get ahead (8)
- Eastern garments revealed by titled person when retiring (5)
- Type of salmon eaten by leaner kangaroos (5)
- Denationalise, having one tax in force (8)
- Had a wide range of interests, and sported by the meadow (6,3,5)

**Down**

- Takes cover and investigates thrashing (4,4,5)
- 'Ard-working journalist, involved in a row, gets stickler (7)
- I shall 'ouse Edwin, being unfortunate (3-6)
- Obtains help? That's denied (8)
- Call on phone, taking on (6)
- Strike the man entering church (5)

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**Be prepared for the first hype of spring. Jeffrey Archer has a new book out. In an exciting departure for the literary world, this latest book strays into new territory. It is a "novelography" — he has coined the term himself.**

Joanna Coles

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Review

Blair's

your leader

has claim

the ground

inside